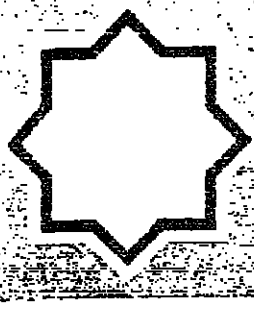


The Star



Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly



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AMMAN, 16 — 22 MAY, 1996, VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1, 350 fils

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Experts unimpressed with Kabariti's first 100 days of rule

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer

HUNDRED DAYS is a short period of time to judge the government of Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti. This is a view agreed upon by political observers. But the performance of the government needs to be more dynamic internally, and more balanced externally.

Mr. Kabariti was given the green light by His Majesty King Hussein, who insisted that dramatic changes take place in the most sensitive areas of government. Kabariti's cabinet is strongly tied to the Palace, Parliament and the security services—a source of envy from previous premiers. It is important to mention the strong backing of the King's government received from the press. These made the mission of Mr. Kabariti even more challenging.

In relation to the democratic process, "The government had introduced positive aspects," said Ibrahim Izziden, a former deputy prime minister who is considered a liberal. For him, a recent arrests were not helpful to the government's assumed role.

"The government should pay attention to these arrests because its record has been positive towards democracy," he added.

The arrests, especially among Islamists, ended the honeymoon between the government and the opposition, particularly the Islamic Action Front (IAF).

"The government must put an end to the arrests. Unfortunately, the campaign is much like of those in the past," said Lower House deputy Hamza Mansour, and IAF spokesman. "These arrests are embarrassing. We feel they happened because of external pressures."

One of the first actions of the government has been to embark on a program to lessen its role in the media. But the government is accused by some of meddling in the internal affairs of the press and in not yet clear how far it will go in that direction.

The restructuring of the security services to make them more accountable is another point in the government's favor. This week, the government adopted a draft law for the Institute of Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights Studies—which has been



Kabariti

side-stepped by previous administrations.

Observers believe that the cabinet has been too optimistic about its confrontation of the nagging issues of poverty and unemployment. But to date, the government has failed to unveil its own program to combat these problems. On the contrary, prices have continued to rise and the government has recently approved price hikes for water and electricity. In addition, it

became the first government to announce openly its willingness to increase the price of bread.

"Despite the fact that job opportunities are improving, prices hikes, specially of imported materials continue," said Senator Dr. Jawad Anani. "The government ambitions are varied and this is why we can't judge it at the moment. I expect things will be better at the end of this year."

Referring to social issues, experts believe that studies were carried out and mechanisms created, but the implementation remains weak. "Many plans have been tried in Jordan, but this government has not developed a clear agenda to affect social change," Izziden explained.

Dr. Anani, a former minister and an economic expert, was more forthcoming in his assessment. "By the middle of the next year, there will be more investments, however wages will seriously decrease as a result of the gradual increase in prices."

But price increases will create more tension to the already worsening economic situation. Experts agree that the govern-

ment should work at all levels to avoid more increases in the price of basic commodities.

The economic policy of the government, which is a continuation of previous governments, is based on the Economic Restructuring Program (ERP) agreed upon with the IMF. "In other words the infrastructure is there and the political will for reform is there," said Izziden.

"But this government, like the previous ones, is not taking bold decisions in the administrative reforms. It should be more aggressive," he added.

"In the short run the government's effort aims to strengthen the foreign reserve, to maintain the level of the interest rate and activate the Amman Financial Market," Anani said.

Experts doubt the government has the will to uproot corruption. Even the Law of Illicit Gain is still marching back and forth between the Lower and Upper Houses.

"Up till now I do not feel that the government has shown a political will to introduce new and meaningful legislations to

Continued on page 2

La difficile survie du peuple irakien

A LIRE p. 12 dans LE JOURDAIN

First Ladies call for commitment to development

By Star Staff Writer

AMMAN—The second meeting of the International Steering Committee on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women (ISC), which was opened by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Tuesday, concluded its meetings Wednesday with a call to address the problems and issues of rural women. The First Ladies of 15 countries attending the two-day meeting.

Her Majesty Queen Noor in her concluding remarks said participants had concluded that rural women were creditworthy and called for a review of policies affecting land ownership, inheritance and credit rules.

In his opening address King Hussein pointed to alarming figures about the state of rural women in the world today and described them as a challenge facing the ISC.



and United Nations agencies and bodies concerned with development and human rights. The King said the challenge is in establishing them as a challenge facing the ISC

Continued on page 3

Cairo meeting stresses openness between Jordan, Egypt, PNA

By Ahmad Shaker
Special to The Star

WITH THE participation of His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat, Amman is expected to host the second tripartite summit of the Peace Camp on 5 June. The meeting will come three weeks after a similar one that took place in the Egyptian capital last week.

The Amman summit is significant because it would be convened soon after the end of the Israeli elections, the fourth peace partner, which may put the peace train at a crossroad.

Well-informed sources describe the May summit in Cairo as an interest-oriented and a frank meeting. Indicative of this, the visits which preceded that summit, including the King's last meeting with President Mubarak on his way home from Europe.

The Cairo summit removed the suspicion that at times hung over certain issues that were put on the agenda between the three leaders during their Cairo meet. King Hussein's statements were crystal clear. Jordan's support for the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the PLO is unequivocal.

Moreover, an agreement was reached between Jordan and the PNA on the following issues:

■ In the presence of President Mubarak, King Hussein stated clearly to chairman Arafat that Jordan has no intention whatsoever of becoming an alternative to the Palestinian National Authority, and that it neither believes in nor recognizes any other Palestinian leadership. King Hussein added that Jordan has no aim or interest other than supporting the Palestinian people and their legitimate leadership to realize their national rights and establish an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. The King said Jordan will never compete with Palestinians during the final status negotiations with Israel. King Hussein said that in no time and by no means will Jordan come into conflict with Hamas, neither will the latter carry out any activities in the Kingdom.

■ Jordan will support the Palestinians in their final status negotiations. A special office will be established in Jordan comprising experts to offer consultation and provide Ottoman, British and Jordanian documents on the issues of borders, Jerusalem and the refugees question.



■ King Hussein clearly said that Jordan has no aspirations over Jerusalem and that Jordan's call for the return of the city and its shrines to the Palestinians is sincere. Jordan's role in assuming guardianship of the holy places proceeds from, and as long as they are under Israeli rule.

The old city of Jerusalem, which includes the shrines, has nothing to do with the discussions on the question of sovereignty, as the holy places are not subject to political sovereignty, but only to that of God's. Jerusalem is the symbol and title of peace, the King

stated. Jordan will do its best to preserve Jerusalem and the holy shrines therein until the Palestinians regain their rights there.

■ The three parties have a mutual interest in drawing the red lines to define their interrelations, especially at this stage.

■ Jordan competes with nobody for a pivotal role in the region, and fully supports Egypt. Any setback on the final status negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis will have negative repercussions on the peace process in Jordan and Egypt. Therefore, coordination

Continued on page 2

Iraqi hospitals suffer from lack of drugs, disrepair

By Oroub Al Abed
Special to The Star

BAGHDAD—In a six-patient room in Ibn Al Beladi Hospital in Saddam City, the morning round for the doctors, with only one specialist in epidemiology, continues daily. Patients, laying on unheated beds, suffer while waiting for God's mercy to relieve their pain.

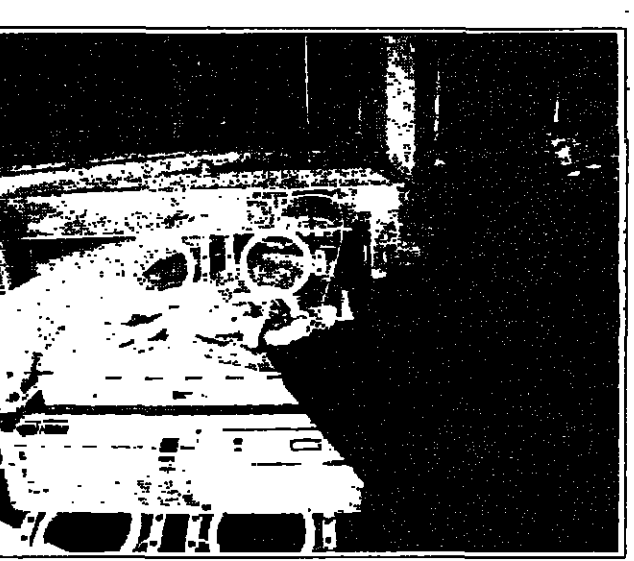
With UN sanctions imposed on Iraq since 1990 the state of Iraqi hospitals has deteriorated to dire levels. In the summer, with the temperatures soaring, windows are left open. Outside, the smell of rotting garbage seeps in.

Flies hover over helpless patients. They are everywhere: on walls, food and on babies' milk.

With no sterilization available, the hospital is rife with cockroaches running on floors and walls. For the 36-room floor in this hospital, only one toilet is available. There used to be many toilets, but because pipes are in short supply, the toilets had to be knocked down and made part of the rooms, explained Dr. Alhan Al Rashid.

Patients enter hospitals to become well again. But not in Iraq. Lack of drugs, worn out equipment, flies, cockroaches and the general atmosphere is making patients even more sick.

Patients with leukemia, thalassemia and hemophilia can't be treated because of the lack of medicines and working equipment, explained Dr. Muhsen Maki Mahmoud, general director of Al Mansour Teaching



Hospital in Baghdad.

Patients can't count on local pharmaceutical production, which meets only 25 percent of the local market needs because factories are unable to import chemical agents needed for manufacturing. "The shortage of Vincristine [chemotherapy] is causing a major problem in the treatment of patients with leukemia," Dr. Mahmoud added.

Under the Iraqi-Jordanian protocol of 1995, Jordanian pharmaceuticals valued at \$33 million annually entered Iraq. In addition, drugs valued at \$27 million came from NGO's worldwide.

"Unfortunately most of these drugs were not vital and most were already expired," pointed out the Minister of Health Medhat Mubarak sarcastically.

The shortage does not only affect drugs, but medical equipment and, more importantly, spareparts, which are prohibited from entering the country under the UN sanctions.

"We are working hard to develop expertise, new inventions, and things which we have left a long time ago! We are reviving old methods," the minister said.

In hospitals, for instance, there is no paper to write on. So they adopted a new system of writing on the back of old files. Hospital labs have almost stopped functioning since the Gulf War because of the disruption of electricity. Fluctuating electrical current and voltage instability had damaged

Continued on page 2

By Fred Barbash
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

LONDON—Pity the Thames. The millennium cometh, and with it, a notion that the river is somehow not good enough for the occasion.

Among the solutions: creating a Ferris wheel along its banks that would rise as high as the Washington Monument, encasing some of the buildings on its shores in a "crystal palace" of glass, "linking and weaving" it together into a new "blue highway" by the use of high-tech boats. Last year, the government released a Thames Strategy, devised by consultants, with the notion of planning the river into submission.

Pray for the Thames. And consider whether it really needs much help celebrating history.

The Thames, whose name was recorded as far back as Julius Caesar, is 213 miles long. It twists and turns through Greater London for roughly 30 miles from Hampton Court in the west to Greenwich in the east. At one end, at Hampton Court Palace, the King James version of the Bible was born. At the

London to spruce up the Thames

other, Greenwich, the clock of the Western world was set.

Between the two points, William the Conqueror started building the Tower of London 78 years after the last millennium celebration. It still stands. Not far away, Shakespeare staged his plays. A stone's throw from there, the Mayflower departed. And nearby, on the south bank, is the site of a famous old mental hospital, St. Mary of Bethlehem, better known to the world as "Bedlam."

Among those who have lived or worked on its banks: Geoffrey Chaucer, Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, Sir Thomas More, Charles Dickens, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, George Eliot, Joseph Conrad, Thomas Carlyle,

Oscar Wilde, Virginia Woolf, Ben Jonson, James Abbot McNeill Whistler, William Butler Yeats, Charles de Gaulle and Mick Jagger, to name a few.

The complaint is that the river is hard to use and is thus underused. Like the rest of London, things just happened, and parts are a bit shabby. Some confess the real problem is that it is not the Seine, not very romantic. A quick, unscientific survey of a few knowledgeable Londoners failed to turn up a single popular song about the Thames, save "London Bridge Is Falling Down."

Its banks are not terribly accessible: Tidal rhythms cause the water to rise and fall 22 feet in a single day. Great ugly walls protect the banks when the water is high. When the water level is low, on the other hand, it is a river of mud flats. Except up river, where it's bucolic, it's not for

loungers.

In fact, the Thames is neither romantic, nor blue, nor, anymore, a highway. It's a clutter. Britain had an empire and a traditional shipping trade, which required great wharves and warehouses. The empire went away and container vessels replaced the old ships, but the old wharves and warehouses remained. Some became apartment complexes, but then the recession came along and many of the apartments were left empty. They are just now filling up.

But while the river may be underutilized, as the Thames Strategy report said last year, the clutter is not. The Battersea Power Station, stunning in its dark silhouette, was the setting for the recent movie "Richard III."

On weekends, a construction site immediately to its west becomes a bazaar of the nation's junk. The crane on the

site is a gathering place for bungee jumpers, who, for a fee, get hoisted high above the river and then dropped.

In nearby Battersea Park, you never know what you will find. One week it was a convention of vintage motorcycles—complete with vintage bikers—sponsored by Harley-Davidson.

Even the mud flats can be fun. If you are adventurous, like Stephanie Tickner, who guides tours along the riverbanks for London Walks, you can go scrounging in the muck for artifacts. "I've got a lovely old collection of clay pipes from the 1600s," she said. "If you were to dredge the middle, you'd find armor going back 3,000 years."

The South Bank arts complex—diagonally across and slightly down river from the Palace of Westminster—is alive with activity day and night.

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JORDAN

WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar



His Majesty King Hussein has inspected the Azraq air force base on Saturday to mark the end of the joint US-Jordanian military exercises. The exercises, named operation Eager Tiger, involved 34 US fighters and squadrons of the Jordanian Air Force. Jordan hopes to absorb US-made fighters into its air force sometime next year. The US planes will now confine their mission to surveillance of a no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

About the maneuvers, King Hussein said he was pleased that Jordanian pilots were taking part. He said it was an opportunity to receive first-hand know-how about sophisticated technology. The King pointed out that the deployment of US warplanes in Jordan were not in any way directed against Iraq.

"The US is a friendly nation with which we conducted several military exercises in the past," he said. "This is one of the largest ones about which the Americans themselves have expressed satisfaction," the King added.

Over 1,100 US service personnel are stationed in Al Azraq. For the US, the joint exercises were an opportunity to share professional knowledge, said the commander of the Airpower Expeditionary Force in Jordan, Gen. Bill Looney. He said US jets fly about 10 sorties per day over southern Iraq.

Corruption: practice and reality

Corruption: practice and reality. Minister of Administrative Development Dr Kamal Nasser has rejected press reports that his ministry has drawn up a 'Corruption File'. The minister said he was very surprised by what



Nasser

was published in *Al Aswat* about the existence of a file with names, addresses and numbers. Minister of Information Dr Marwan Al Muasher denied the existence of such files. But the government keeps reminding us that it has a strategy to fight corruption. It would be appropriate and timely to tell us something about that strategy. But seriously, it has been reported by *Ad Dustour* that the government is working hard to fight corruption—a complicated problem that needs patience and stamina. But people are angry. An Islamic delegation

visited Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabariti last week to urge for quick action. Mr Kabariti said the government is serious about combating corruption, but it is still in the process of gathering information. On another level, the Council of Students of Higher Education at the University of Jordan has sent a memorandum to the Prime Minister demanding that he looks into cases of financial misuse and administrative corruption in the university.

A two-star 'fool'

The Ministry of Supply has agreed to up-market popular restaurants—the fool, humus, and falafel variety. Now there will be ordinary and extraordinary category restaurants. They all sell the same stuff, but ministry sources say the category A restaurants will provide better quality services. Would that mean better "fool" or better seating arrangements? We wonder. With fool, humus and falafel being the staple food of the majority of the underprivileged, we urge the government not to put its sticky fingers into this subject.

Democracy on brakes

Democracy might be an illusive concept, an elastic notion that stretches or decreases depending on who is leading the government. To our dismay, democracy is on the retreat in 1996. Despite our belief of greater liberalization and transparency, a latest opinion poll by the Center of Strategic Studies has found that this was not the case. The poll found that the democratic process was reversing in 1996 compared to 1993. Not surprisingly, it was found that political parties also had a lesser contribution in the political life of the country and had ceased to be effective in society. When were they ever effective? The poll found that tribalism and patronage continue to have a strong grip on society. About 18.3 percent of the respondents said that Jordan is still in its initial stage of the democratic process. 70.1 percent said that Jordan

is in the middle stage while 5.5 percent said that Jordan is a country that reached the ultimate in democratic freedoms!

Kabariti for population

It seems that the white revolution of the government is not out of steam after all. The population is becoming high on the agenda from now on. Prime Minister Kabariti is instructing ministries and government agencies to start implementing the National Population Strategy which was adopted by the government in March. But what does that mean, one might ask? This simply means coordination with the National Population Committee over any projects and plans relating to population that the government wishes to undertake. Could someone tell us exactly what this means?

Helping poor areas, finally!

The Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) is again to be congratulated for its dynamic role in society. While some may say better late than never, the municipality is at last moving into improving the terrain of poor areas in and around Amman.

About 11 areas for development have been chosen. These "pockets of poverty" are in Al Mahata, Al Quseih, Wadi Al-Haddadi, Wadi Abdoun, Al-Lawzi neighborhood, Mohammad Amin Camp, Abu Alla, Al-Tafaleh neighborhood, Al-Nuzha, Al-Taj, Aum Nuwara and Wadi Al-Murbit. The object is to provide better infrastructure and services for people living in these areas, municipality officials say.

Al Mahata seems to be the first area to benefit since both population and technical studies have already been completed. Officials say Al Mahata will serve as a role model for development of other areas.

The Mahata project covers 84 dunums with a population of 5,000. New roads and playgrounds are envisaged for the camp to make it easier for the movement of people.



Jahel Rifa'at Dastour

Prince Hassan visits Safawi

The development of Jordan's Badia region was the main focus of HRH Prince Hassan's visit to the northern desert last week. The Prince, who was accompanied by Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti, has always shown a great interest in supporting underprivileged areas in Jordan. He told reporters that the development of the desert must be carried out through greater research and by utilizing the potential resources of these areas.

The visit was in conjunction with the development program for the Al Safawi arid region. The internationally-backed program includes submission of research papers dealing with human resources, agriculture, industry and geology. The program covers an area of 11210 sq. km.

Prince Hassan defined three dimensions for development in the desert. The social aspect represented through health, education and social development. The natural resources dimension, which include the exploitation of gas resources in the eastern desert. And finally, the vast areas of land that must be used for agriculture and grazing. This would not be achieved unless water resources are preserved. The program is conducted under the supervision of the High Council of Science and Technology.

Two other lawyers charged with Mr Rantisi, Mr Akel Daoud and Mr Sabri Akroush also walked free. The issue of belonging to the committee is still controversial, since it is a coordinating framework for most of the opposition parties. The Rantisi case is a case in point. Many people before were also taken to court for belonging to the same organization. Once in court, they are invariably set free by the judges. We need a final decision, as previous legal presence about the organization has not worked. Let us stop wasting the courts' and judges' valuable time, since they have more pressing legal matters to deal with.

Good news for journalists

The editor of the leftist weekly *Al-Ahali*, Mr Osama Al Rantisi, walked free out of court as presiding Judge Basam Al Yamani of the Salt Court of First Instance rejected charges made against him. Mr Rantisi was charged earlier of distributing leaflets against the reception of Jewish tourists during the Fuhes Cultural Festival of August last year. He was also accused of belonging to an illegal committee, the anti-Normalization Committee.

Good riddance! The Jordanian citizen who named his son Rabin after the late Israeli Prime Minister is presently in Israel visiting relatives. Rajae Saad told the Israeli press that no one will employ him in Jordan simply because of the name he had given to his son. He said he is seriously thinking of staying in Israel and looking for a job. Any offers for an unemployed farm hand?

Kabariti

Continued from page 1

fight corruption, and introduce transparency in government," Izziden said.

The IAF submitted a documented report to the government about several cases of corruption. "The government knows that corruption is rooted in the country but it is hesitant and afraid to deal seriously with it," Mansour said.

The foreign policy of the government is dramatically affecting the internal situation. Its unclear policy towards the Palestinian National Authority, Iraq and the close relations with Israel imbalanced Jordan's regional and Arab role. "The rather controversial political decisions in foreign affairs negatively affected the country," Izziden said. "Our relations with the Gulf countries have been improved but not to an extent to encourage their businessmen to invest in Jordan."

"Jordanian diplomacy still cannot reflect the deep public reservations towards Israel," he added.

"The government came to implement the so-called peace treaty despite the fact that people feel this treaty is serving the Zionist enemy and spoils relations with the Arab countries," Mansour said. "Although the recent position towards Iraq does not serve our people and interests, the government is still walking on this track."

EL Al is delayed yet again

El Al, the Israeli national airline has yet again postponed its first flights to the Kingdom initially scheduled to begin on 19 May. Over the telephone, the carrier's agent in Amman, who requested anonymity, told *The Star* that the delay is due to technical and administrative reasons. He said that the final date will be in the last week of June. The number of weekly flights, he said, are expected to be 5.

UNRWA will solution to its says Hans



By Eyad Ammar
Special to the Star

WILL not reduce its services to the 1.5 million refugees in the West Bank and Gaza, UNRWA general manager Mr. Hans said. "So far, the UNRWA has concluded a two-year contract to discuss the budget," he said.

Mr. Hans said UNRWA is not likely to be able to meet the budget of UNRWA for 1996. "The UNRWA is not likely to be able to meet the budget of UNRWA for 1996," he said.

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Tour operators promote Indian tourism

Continued from page 3

and said that Jordan too could soon become a tourist destination for Indians. A buyer-seller meeting was held where Indian and Jordanian tour operators discussed package tours to India. Royal Jordanian currently flies to New Delhi and Calcutta and will shortly start service to Bombay. Air India has started service to Tel Aviv. An Indian embassy source said many Indians are interested in visiting the Holy Land and Jordan but are finding difficulty in obtaining tourist visas to Jordan, which usually take more than a month to issue. Jordanians can obtain visas to India in one day.

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Iraqi hospitals suffer from lack of drugs, disrepair

Continued from page 1

sensitive medical equipment. Tests became out of the question. Baby incubators became obsolete. According to the 1995 WHO report only 29 percent of Iraqi medical labs are in use because the equipment had stopped functioning.

"My daughter was born premature; she stayed for 10 days in hospital but died on the eleventh because of problems with incubators," said a well-to-do father. Even his money couldn't save his baby girl.

"Major hospital surgeries have been reduced by 71 percent," said the minister. This is due to lack of anesthesia, and antiseptics to sterilize wounds.

UNICEF and the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) supply the Al Mansour hospital. This is only 10 percent of the drugs and equipment needed and it is not enough. A syringe is not used only once by a patient but during his entire stay in hospital.

Patients have to be very cautious. The idea of being admitted with one problem and going out with several others is a daunting prospect for patients. More and more people are staying at home because of the lack of care they receive in hospitals. In Mosul, north Iraq, the number of patients admitted to hospitals in 1989 was 43,709. In 1995, the number has dropped to 25,864 despite the health deteriorating situation.

The number of doctors in Iraq decreased. Many emigrated because of low pay and poor working and living conditions. On average doctors receive 4,500 Iraqi dinars a month, about \$6.

The number of doctors working in a hospital in northern Iraq in 1990 was 95. This decreased to 88 in 1995. The lack of nurses is a more staggering problem. Every child admitted to hospital was accompanied by his mother to take care of him. While plates,

glasses and spoons have to be brought by the mother, she is not entitled to any hospital food.

Children enter hospital because of malnourishment and chronic diarrhea because of polluted water and food and must be given dehydrant solutions and treated milk. But both items are in short supply.

"The Red Cross and Red Crescent cover only 5 percent of our needs," said Dr Mahmoud.

As in every society poor people become the first victims of a crisis.

In spite of the shortage of drugs, black marketeers exploit the situation and force people to buy at exorbitant prices. The economic situation has become so bad that it is forcing pharmacists in hospitals to steal drugs coming into hospitals and sell it on the black market. The will to survive has made enemies out of brothers.

Cairo meeting stresses openness

Continued from page 1

say that the coming period will witness an improvement in inter Arab relations. They add that some other Arab countries may take part in the forthcoming Amman Summit (from the Arab Maghreb or Gulf states), as an expression of their full support to the peace camp.

As for the Iraqi issue, the three leaders agreed to exert all possible effort to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people. They also noted some signals of support from Iraq to the countries involved in the peace process as that directly affect Iraq. Hence, Iraq will be closer to Egypt and Jordan than Syria which has recently patroned an Iraqi opposition conference in its territory.

In this respect, the Israel-Turkey alliance was discussed, and its impact on the region was viewed. The three leaders agreed that King Hussein will explain these developments during his trip, today, to Ankara. King Hussein will also pronounce the three parties interest in maintaining cooperation with Turkey and strengthen its role in the stability of the region.

The leaders agreed that further joint efforts should be made to bring Iraq back into the Arab and international communities, to end the suffering of the Iraqi people, and preserve its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The three leaders also agreed that all problems that are associated with water should be solved in ways which serve continued development in the region and prevent the eruption of disputes on this matter in the future.

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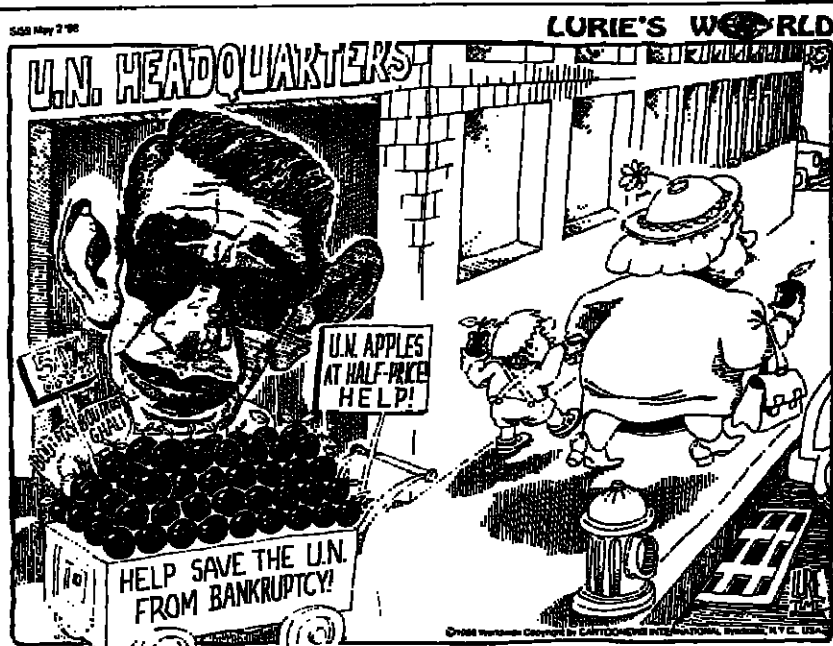
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Our Say...

UN's mandate in Iraq is over

AS MILLIONS of Iraqi people await the outcome of the oil-for-food negotiations in New York, which have been dragging aimlessly on and on for months now, the time to reopen the whole UN sanctions file against Iraq could not be more opportune. For we all know by now that the US will find a way to derail the current talks in order to prolong Iraq's seizure.

Ever since the Security Council imposed its wholesale embargo against Iraq as punishment for invading Kuwait there were those, inside and outside the Arab world, who have been calling for their removal or curtailment. But Iraq's attempts to break free from the grip hold of the sanctions, running into their sixth year, have all failed.

In the beginning, the world, still stunned from Iraq's swift invasion of Kuwait and the Gulf War that followed, was ready to tow the US line and impose the sanctions in the hope that Iraq's arsenal of chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction would be dismantled. And it worked. More than four years of gruelling UN inspections and physical destruction of these arsenals, Iraq appears to have complied with all UN resolutions concerning its weapons program. By all accounts, Iraq has nothing to hide anymore and if there is something out there, the meticulous UN inspectors would have stumbled into it by now.

But for many months, the Security Council has been extending the embargo almost automatically, while on the ground UN inspectors appear to be involved in a wild goose chase. Nothing wrong with that if it wasn't for the tremendous and outrageous price that the people of Iraq are paying while waiting for the US and Britain, the only two countries who blindly refuse to even partially lift the embargo, to soften up and decide that enough is enough.

Well enough is enough! We know as well as the whole world that nothing justifies the death of Iraqi babies because of malnutrition, lack of medical supplies in ill-equipped hospitals and polluted drinking water. Nothing justifies the breaking up of a country as proud and rich as Iraq no matter what UN inspectors believe or claim.

We are again reminded of the double standards that the US administration, and unfortunately Britain, apply when dealing with the plight of the Iraqi people. The case today is not about digging up secret labs and underground factories in Iraq, but it is about keeping Iraq weak and ailing for as long as possible. The case today is not about removing the regime of Saddam Hussein, for that is not the mandate of the UN or any other party. The case is not about democracy in Iraq, for that too is not the business of any party but the Iraqi people. The case today is not about finding the whereabouts of missing Kuwaitis, compensation or new borderlines. The case is an anathema to all Arabs. We are sick of America's hypocrisy, UN's ineptitude, Western malaise and Arab impotence in dealing with the Iraqi issue.

That is why the time has come to reopen the case and exhume the dead for a second look. The UN's mandate in Iraq is over. It can continue long-term monitoring, but it must remove its bloody hands from the livelihood of millions of Iraqis. Our leaders, our intellectuals and our politicians must make a stand on this issue. Appearing our "friends" by looking the other way is making us all accessory to mass murder. ■

Attack bus stop; effect on election

JERUSALEM—When Israeli radio reported that gunmen had opened fire on Jewish settlers at a West Bank bus stop on Monday, the first question on many political minds was, "Is this the terrorist attack that will sway the election?"

It was the same question that arose when Hezbollah guerrillas fired on Israeli soldiers in Southern Lebanon on Sunday. It even came to many Israelis when an unusually loud sonic boom shook Jerusalem last week, prompting hundreds of panicky telephone calls to police.

As 29 May election draws near, Israelis increasingly are jumpy, anticipating a mass attack by Palestinian extremists in central Israel or by Muslim guerrillas on the northern border.

But no one is more worried

than Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who, in addition to fearing for Israeli lives, is fighting for political survival.

Peres has been hanging on to a fragile five-point lead in the race against right-wing Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu that even members of his own Labor Party concede would disappear quickly with a devastating assault. Peres knows from experience this is true—he blames his loss to the Likud's Yitzhak Shamir in 1988 on a Palestinian attack on an Israeli bus in Jericho.

Just how massive an attack it would take to turn the election no one can predict in a country that is simultaneously accustomed to violence and fed up with it. The answer has a lot to do with the very psychology of terrorism—with how many people die and how off-balance

or insecure it makes Israelis feel.

Monday's attack occurred outside of Beit El about 12 miles north of Jerusalem. Israelis soon learned that the gunmen left one teenage seminary student dead and another seriously wounded.

The attackers first shot at a bus carrying Jewish settlers, but the shots did not penetrate the armored windshield that is routinely used on West Bank buses as protection against such terrorist attacks. Two passengers were slightly hurt when the driver slammed on the brakes after the shooting.

The gunmen, presumably Palestinians, then turned their fire on a bus stop about a mile away, killing 17-year-old David Reuven Baum, who was also an American citizen. ■

It's time for the freemen to become jailbirds

By Carrie Nalle Moyer
Star US correspondent

WHAT HAPPENED in Waco in 1994 was a tragedy. No matter what one thought of David Koresh and/or his cult, no matter what the truth is of the many varied stories as to the legality, morality, or intentions of the actions of the FBI, the very fact that so many persons, particularly children, were killed (even exclusive of the way in which they died), it was a tragedy.

But Waco is in the past. Perhaps we learned some lessons there or perhaps we did not. Whatever the truth was regarding that situation, today is today. It is time the self-proclaimed "Freemen" are shown that being a citizen of the United States does not guarantee anarchy. It does not guarantee that an individual or group of individuals can decide that legislatively-cum-societal-imposed laws can declare such laws non-applicable to them. When they make reference to the intentions of the "founding fathers," the Freemen speak liberally of their own interpretation of the freedom about which our Declaration of Independence and later our Constitution were written.

Hogwash! Our founders were attempting to guarantee the rights of all persons in this nation both individually and collectively. When there is overt emotional conflict between the two, the "collectively" must take precedence over the "individually" or else we shall return to the primitive state of self-family/tribal communal warfare, ultimately culminating in a might-makes-right dictatorship, the antithesis of what our founders envisioned, fought for and initiated.

Consider this. There are things with which I disagree within our government. So I establish "Carrie Nalle's Hills and Dales" on 1,000 acres, declare my cohorts and me to be "Freemen," answerable to no one but ourselves, and dare anyone to contradict my actions. I have an abundant supply of food (the

Mormons taught me that); hundreds of gallons of bottled water (which were placed in my bomb shelter in the early stages of the Cold War); a minimum of three firearms per person, including assault weapons (due to my strict devotion to, and verbal/written promotion of, the National Rifle Association); I was given these to defend myself from a government attempting to restrict my access to self-protection; and I have unlimited conjugal visits with my spouse. Indeed, my followers and I have unlimited conjugal visits, but we can not say that as that sounds too much like a hippie commune of the 1960s and the Good Lord above knows we are not like that.

Did I say followers? Of course. I can out-Koresh David, out-Jones James, out-Robertson Pat: why I can even out-Buchanan the other Pat. Charisma; that is what I have. And I have my freedom, by golly, and no one—no quasi-government (QG), no quasi-branch of a QG, be it local or federal, will infringe on my God-given and Founder-given rights.

You think me a hypocrite for accepting over \$650,000 dollars in farm subsidies during the last 10 years from this QG? Why no, honey; all's fair in love and war. The QG was stupid enough to give it to me so I accepted. Besides, my subsidies were legitimate. "Carrie Nalle's Hills and Dales" personnel were attempting to make our oasis in the South into a genuine Eden. Of course it was necessary for me to purchase several Lincoln Continentals, because if I could not appear prosperous, the QG would think it had invested poorly, and I might receive no more.

Speaking of investments: certainly I made frequent trips to Las Vegas.

These had a two-fold purpose: after toiling on my land, it was only natural I needed plenty of R and R, and what better way to do this than to go to the city-of-epitome-of-investments, Las Vegas? Two birds with one stone, you see? Sorry, folks. I simply can not buy the above scenario anymore. The hold-outs near Jordan, Montana, aka "Justus Township," have been more than coddled by law enforcement officials from local police through the FBI. Members, having already broken numerous laws, and encouraging all who will listen to further commit crimes, ranging from writing bogus checks to declaring open hunting on "legislators, judges, police officers and ministers" should expect no more patience.

Most of us, the public, have long since exhausted ours. Indeed, as much as we may regret having to resort to bloodshed to maintain order in our land, if we allow our bluff to be called much longer in Justice Township, we might as well negate laws.

And this can not be. The FBI can not stand with its tail hanging limply between its legs, and otherwise be impotent, lest we lose not just the respect for our laws but encourage more of the same until anarchy does indeed become the norm rather than the exception.

No doubt every single US citizen would like to change some point(s) in our government. There's a way to do it. But the "Freemen" haven't found it. The South seceded; it didn't work because it was wrong. It will not work outside Jordan, Montana. Should the Freemen or any of their ilk persist in disassociating from our country rather than legally changing from within, may they read Canto VI of "The Lay of the Last Minstrel" by Sir Walter Scott. ■



Media circus around OJ Simpson trial

A case of racial justice revisited

The Search for Justice, A defense attorney's brief on the O.J. Simpson case by Robert L. Shapiro
Warner Books, \$24.95, pp363.

Reviewed by
Henry Weinstein

THE O.J. Simpson murder case, an aberration in virtually every respect from what happens in the nation's criminal courtrooms every day, has now brought us a commodity almost as rare as a well-financed defense—the sore winner.

Robert Shapiro and his colleagues gained an acquittal in the most watched trial in history. Yet,

he's not satisfied with legal victory. Fearing that outrage over the verdict reflects badly on him, he seems to have written this book in no small measure to convince readers—dare I say white readers in particular—that controversial defense tactics were not his idea and that someone else deserves the blame.

In *The Search for Justice*, Shapiro provides a mostly chronological narrative of "the Trial of Century." He contends that a verdict of acquittal was fully justified because the defense team made Swiss cheese of critical parts of the prosecution case against the former football star. "Their mountain of evidence collapsed under an avalanche of incompetence, contamination and lies."

Shapiro, who loves to refer to himself as the defense team's "quarterback," says that he is proud of his work on behalf of Simpson. Clearly, he rightly can claim credit for making, in the weeks after the grisly June 12, 1994, murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald L. Goldman, a number of critical moves that were instrumental in his client's eventual acquittal. Among them were hiring forensic scientists and a top-flight group of attorneys, who came to be known as the "Dream Team." By aggressively pushing the case fast, he kept the prosecutors off balance, and his skilled cross-examination of coroner Dr. Irwin Golden at the preliminary hearing provided an early glimpse of serious problems that undermined the prosecution's case.

As much as anything, Shapiro's goal seems to be to convince readers that he is the Atticus Finch of this tragic tale: a good

guy who tried honorably to defend a seemingly guilty client in the best American tradition—unlike some of his colleagues, who are less flatteringly portrayed.

In particular, he chastises Johnnie L. Cochran Jr., who supplanted him as Simpson's lead lawyer, for being an irresponsible advocate, unnecessarily escalating the racial dynamics of the case; for engaging in discovery violations and over-promising and what the defense could prove in his opening statement. He also derides F. Lee Bailey, his old friend turned enemy, for poor lawyering and for leaking information to the tabloids.

In his book and in television appearances hawking it, Shapiro loudly deplores Cochran's playing "the race card." Shapiro says the defense did such a good job of creating reasonable doubt that Simpson could have prevailed without Cochran's dramatic entreaties to the jury in his closing argument to draw a line in the sand against racist police abuse.

Reader beware: Whatever you think of the verdict, whatever you think of Cochran, don't kid yourself that the so-called "race card" started with him. Shapiro played that card early, as soon as he learned about some of the problems in Detective Mark Fuhrman's past. That set the tone for one of the critical O.J. case issues of the trial.

Shapiro's attempts to distance himself from it are unconvincing. Before Simpson became his client on 13 June, 1994, Shapiro wrote a widely cited article in a legal journal advising other lawyers on how to deal with the media. He advised his colleagues to avoid describing a homicide for which a client was accused as a "tragedy." Instead, he suggested using a phrase like "horrible human event." If such phrases are repeated continuously, he wrote, "they will be repeated by the media. After a while, the repetition almost becomes a fact. That is the lawyer's ultimate goal." Those are the words of an experienced spin doctor.

Shapiro wants to airbrush his role on matters other than the media, particularly race. At several points in the book, Shapiro laments how race came to dominate the case once Cochran took the lead role on the defense team. I don't doubt that Shapiro and Cochran did clash sharply on this point. But Shapiro avoids a key issue.

Early in the trial, Bailey elicited memorable testimony from Fuhrman that he had not used the word "nigger" in the past decade. The defense already had with

1994, he and Cochran held separate, well-choreographed news conferences accusing prosecutors of questioning black candidates for the jury more aggressively than whites. If anything, Shapiro's remarks that day were more strident than Cochran's. "It implies an insidious effort to try to get black jurors removed for cause because they are black, because they have black heroes, and because O.J. Simpson is one of them. There's no other reason."

Then there was Shapiro's direct examination of one of the defense's key expert witnesses, Dr. Michael Baden, a former New York medical examiner.

Shapiro writes that Cochran made much too much of race—particularly in his closing argument. And he blames Cochran for linking "Fuhrman, a banal, petty, even racist, with the most monstrous murderer of all time, Adolf Hitler," during the closing argument. Shapiro calls the comparison "gratuitous, inflammatory... just plain wrong" and "completely unnecessary."

Perhaps, Cochran's remarks did indeed precipitate intense debate, particularly in the Jewish community, even through his Jewish colleagues on the defense team—other than Shapiro—defended the remarks as an appropriate reminder to the jury that they ought not to countenance civil.

Both the Simpson trial and its aftermath have been painful reminders that we have not progressed nearly as far as we should have in addressing racial injustice. Blacks continue to be the victims of all sorts of unjustified oppression and Simpson, the defendant, appears to have been the beneficiary of black distrust of white institutions. Don't forget, though, that one Latino and two whites also voted not guilty.

There are some interesting moments in this book. There is a good description of the "controlled chaos" at Robert Kardashian's house before Simpson disappeared with his old friend, A.C. Cowlings, leading to the infamous slow-speed case. "Now he was sitting in his underwear, methodically arranging custody of his children and power of attorney over his personal and business affairs, while nurses drew blood out of his arms and scientists pulled hairs out of his head," ■

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Middle East Beat

Final status

IT TAKES one to have a dream, another to negotiate it, and God knows what it takes to have a fantasy. Of course one is writing in the context of the final status negotiations between the PNA and Israel. It is okay to dream and fantasize, realising the first is fruitful, while the latter usually turns out to be a disappointment.

So where are the final status negotiations on this longshore of dreams and illusions? Arafat and Peres, indicated their intentions for the realisation of Palestinian statehood, giving the impression that this is really the case. But from the recent trip of both leaders, to the USA, one finds more in the stuff of fantasy rather than dreams for legitimate Palestinian aspirations. Mr Peres walks away with Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel, and three billion dollars better off, while Mr Arafat expressed satisfaction with the results of conversations with Mr Clinton.

One does not have to be a genius to figure out in whose comfort, American foreign policy is concerned with. Mr Peres will undoubtedly use the material gains to the advantage of his election campaign. But to whose advantage, and in which development project, will Mr Arafat's empty plea for financial support?

The dye is already cast, and the outcome of those negotiations are not likely to benefit the underdog. So before all is lost on the alters of political vanity and indiscriminate deception, the organic unity of Jordanians and Palestinians is the only natural resources that can be drawn upon to materialize the strong and lasting peace for our region.

The occupied West Bank must not remain as an appendage to historical fallacies, and as a geographical point on the compass of the traveller. The unity of both people on the two banks of the Jordan River is, older than geo-political perceptions, and transient philosophical ideologies.

If it is true that the negotiations will eventually produce a status for the Occupied Territories, then all those tripartite agreements between Jordan, Israel, and the PNA must not be devoid of their real political content—namely, political sovereignty. For the lack of such an important content allows Israel to block the Occupied Territories even from the Jordanian side, thus rendering all the other agreements with the PNA superfluous.

If there is any point for the tripartite negotiations, it is to guarantee equality between all parties concerned, and that can only be achieved through the political angle. It is surprising therefore, to see that the most deeply concerned parties, regarding this issue left to their own resources to fight the battle of peace building, while Israel, and another former Arab country, unrelated to the issue, benefit from the benevolence of American foreign policy. If real peace is to be achieved, the economic and political stability of the most needy in this formula must be guaranteed.

It is becoming apparent that there is an attempt to stop Jordan from joining the tripartite negotiations on the future of the occupied West Bank. Though Jordan before, and now, acknowledge the PNA as the legitimate authority in the West Bank, we are being excluded from attempting to defend our own rights and support for Palestinian brothers. International law demands that Jordan has a say in what goes on in the final status negotiations, and more importantly the reality of the situation demands that Jordan must be a part of what will eventually determine the future of our small area, otherwise the dream of aspirations will only turn out to be, a simple fantasy. ■

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Business scene

■ The Agricultural Credit Corp. has offered JD 4.7 million in loans this year to 1546 farmers. About 1051 received such loans for the first time.

■ Jordanian Expatriates Investment Co. decided to rotate its JD 164,300 profit of 1995, and to increase its paid up capital to JD 10 million.

■ The Ministry of Supply, the only importer of basic food stuffs, offered a \$100 million trust facilities to the Islamic Bank in support of financing increasing imports of items such as: grain, sugar, rice, and barley, etc. Grain purchases this year exceeded the JD 30 million which were allocated by the subsidies program for 1996.

■ The construction sector's contribution to the GDP is 7.4 percent. It incorporates 1300 foundations, 1126 consulting offices, and 110 factories. However, owing to its unsatisfactory performance in the last few years, the construction sector failed to compete with foreign contractors whose ratio increased from 17-48 percent.

■ Arrivals and departures at the Aqaba International Airport amounted to 12,558 passengers during April. There was 342 flights, that is six flights per day on average.

■ The Islamic Bank in Jordan has increased its paid up capital from JD 15 million to JD 22 million. The increase will be covered by the capitalization of JD 3,646 million of the Bank's voluntary reserve and rotated profits.

■ The Middle East Engineering and Electronic Industries (GoldStar) realized net profits of JD 1,925 million by the end of '95 (i.e. 8.75% of the subscribed capital and 94% of the paid up capital).

■ The International Tobacco and Cigarette Co. Ltd. is to increase its paid up capital by JD 3.5 million, reaching a total capital of JD 12.5 million. The company's sales in 1995 were worth JD 31,735 million of which, JD 15,053,490 were paid to the government in fees and taxes. The company decided also to rotate its JD 290,597 profits. The company's sales grew by 460% in 1995.

Foreign Exchange

Wednesday, 15 MAY

	Buy JD	Sell JD
	0.7080	0.7100
	1.0715	1.0769
	0.4614	0.4637
	0.5663	0.5691
	0.1365	0.1372
	0.6733	0.6767
	0.4128	0.4149
	0.8455	0.8457

Development of water resources in Jordan Greater efficiency in water management essential for survival

ENSURING SUFFICIENT water supplies is a challenge Jordan faced for the last two decades.

In 1994, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) published in Arabic a study titled *Policies of land and water in the Near East—Case Studies of Egypt, Jordan, and Pakistan*. The Jordan section was prepared by Ali Al Ghazzawi, an economist at the Royal Scientific Society in Amman.

Al Ghazzawi says there is a great imbalance in population and water resources in Jordan. The water supply per capita has decreased vis-a-vis rapid population increase. This limited the water supplies shares, a practice applied for several years. In many underground aquifers, the average level of water draining exceeded those of re-filling them. To meet the increasing demand for municipal and industrial purposes, water

has been—since the late 1970s transferred among the basins, despite its high cost. Water for irrigation was turned to municipal and industrial uses, whereas municipal-treated water partially substituted water for irrigation.

The study sees that the water supplies for different uses from surface, underground and refuse water amounted to 950 million cubic meters in 1992. As demand increased, the country was forced to extract 172 million cubic meters of potable water, which is more than the safe average of underground drinking.

External water in Jordan is estimated at an annual 692 million cubic metres. In 1992, only 55 percent of that was utilized. About 475 million cubic metres can be developed from these resources.

The main sources of surface water in Jordan come from floods (334 mcm), and rivers and springs (358 mcm).

is determined by various factors:

■ The 7.5 percent population growth rate since 1948, which is more than twice the natural 3.6 percent average growth.

■ Development of the last 30 years, especially the expansion of small-scale industry, transport, mining, construction, and irrigated agriculture. These have raised the average rates of water. Complex construction in 1991 was taking place on land lots of more than seven million square meters, for instance.

■ The rising living standards and the rural migration to urban areas led to an increase in water use. With the exception of the Jordan Valley, the Kingdom witnessed waves of migration to the towns, in search of jobs.

Municipal water uses is one of the main fields of water consumption. More than 97 percent of the population benefit from municipal water networks. In 1992, about 206 mcm were pumped in these networks, which

means a ratio of 50 cm per capita per year (or 136 litre per capita per day). However, the exact end of 56 percent of the water supplies in that year was not known, though an estimated average of 30 percent of those lost water supplies was attributed to leakage.

Hence, the actual home water use per capita was 35 cm per year (i.e. 96 litres per capita per day), less than the recommended 73 cm/year (or 200 litres per capita per day).

The average cost of municipal water supplies is JD 0.5 per 1 cm (from Jordan Valley to Amman). When comparing the volume of leaked water from the networks with the accepted average of losses (i.e. 10%), one concludes that Jordan has lost 41.2 mcm, more than the acceptable average. The annual cost of leakage is about JD 20 million, a more than sufficient amount to invest in new networks.

Industry takes about 4% of total water (i.e. 35 mcm). Industries, such as the oil refinery, Al Hussein's Thermal Station, Phosphate and Potash receive the largest. By 2010, its water share will increase by 140 mcm.

Irrigated agriculture is vital. In the last 20 years, public irrigation in the Jordan Valley, and private irrigation in the heights areas, widened. In the early 1970s, irrigated areas covered 12,000 hectares, and exceeded 61,700 hectares in 1992.

Water needs for irrigation amounted to 800 mcm in 1992, 505 mcm were in the southern Ghor and the Jordan Valley. Only 700 mcm were supplied in that year, and used to irrigate 55,700 hectares out of 63,300 hectares. Some of the land was left unplanted, and crop density decreased. The average water use in the Valley and southern Ghor is 944.5 cm, per hectare per year, and 15 834 cm, per hectare per year in the heights.

The study notes that, in the Jordan Valley, the farmers used to distribute water among themselves on tribal and Islamic basis, i.e. without paying any fees. In 1961, a one file tariff per 1 cm was levied for the first time, and was amended in 1966 to 1-fils per 1 cm

of the first 1800 cm and 2-fils per 1 cm if the consumption exceeded 1800 cm. In 1973, this tariff was raised to 3 fils per 1 cm irrespective of the quantity consumed, and doubled in 1989. It increased again by 10 fils per 1 cm.

Ghazzawi says that current tariffs on irrigated water in the Jordan valley does not cover the operation and maintenance cost, indicating that it receives subsidies. He adds that in 1992 government paid JD 1.44 million to support water supplies, whereas maintenance and operation costs were estimated at JD 2.18 million. Only 150 mcm were sold, and only JD 900,000 were collected from farmers.

Ghazzawi points that Jordan has invested JD 380 million in a comprehensive development plan in the Jordan Valley and southern Ghor, of which JD 127 million were allocated for irrigation projects.

As for irrigation in the heights, water is drained from the wells. No fees are levied on water draining. The estimated pumping cost of one cubic meter is about 50 fils. Both the high cost of the new projects and of their operation is the most crucial issue.

The study stresses that water budgets in Jordan suffer a chronic deficit. It explains that while demand on water supplies increases for the food production, municipalities and industry, water availability is decreasing. Demand on water supplies is expected to rise by 50 percent up to the year 2005, whereas the deficit of supplies will increase by 78 percent in the same period.

The study notes that demand on municipal water is anticipated to reach 350 mcm as the country's population is expected to grow to 5.3 million by the year 2000. The industry's water consumption will likewise increase by 150 mcm. Thus, the water used for both municipal and industry purposes is expected to amount to 500 mcm (i.e. 66 percent of the total amount of renewable water that can be economically developed).

As for water uses in irrigation, it is expected to increase from 800-1088 mcm in the Jordan Valley and southern Ghor in the year 2000.

American Promotion Week shows the best in US

THE AMERICAN Promotion Week which provided the best in American products and services ends tomorrow, Friday with a bang.

This show which has drawn tens of thousands of people to the Amman International Fair Hall at Marj Al Hamam was opened by Prime Minister Abdel Karim Khabiri, accompanied by Industry and Trade Minister Ali Abu Ragheib.

Mr Robert Beecroft, the Charge d'affaires of the US Embassy in Amman, said he is delighted to show Jordanians the latest in products, services and developments in American industry.

The annual show, organized by the US Embassy and dealers in American products has grown from 11 to 42 participants since the first exhibition was held four years ago. Beecroft, who believes the on-going trade promotion will help strengthen trade relations between the two countries stated that, "as a result of the peace process and the Amman Economic Summit, 50 US companies visited Jordan since last November to explore joint business opportunities."

The Commercial Attaché, Gary Grappo, who pointed out that over 25,000 attended last year's show said, a much larger number is expected this year. But Mr Grappo, expressed regret that Jordanians

are not able to afford American automobiles on show as a result of the high import duties. "An American car that cost \$35,000 (in the US) is sold for \$78,000 in Jordan because of the high import duties," Grappo explained that the recent tariff reduction had to go much further.

According to Grappo, over 4,000 Jordanian products were exempted in 1995 from the US customs duties under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). But despite of this preference Jordan's exports to the US amounted only to \$30 million, while imports from the US to the kingdom was valued at about \$355 million. The approval of the GSP for Jordan in 1996, he explained, is still underway as a result of the long running debate on the budget in the US Congress, "but we are quite optimistic that it will be approved".

American products and services on display include automobiles, automotive accessories, spare parts, furniture, clothing, pharmaceuticals, water related technology, musical instruments, cosmetics, financial and banking services, consulting services, electronic and security systems.

On the lighter side, a number of other events are also going on which include Internet presentations and live musical performances.

Zara Investment is developing tourism in a big way

AMMAN—Zara Investment is to increase its paid up capital from JD 25 to JD 50 million.

This sudden, but necessary increase comes to meet the requirements of the company's large and promising program of hotel projects around the country, as well as to correspond to the needs of its expanding investment projects.

The Movenbeck Hotel in Petra is the first investment project of Zara, a company that

was established in 1994. The five-star hotel costs JD 13.3 million and has 185 rooms and suites. This hotel is run by the same and original Swiss administration.

Hayat Hotel will also be constructed on a distinguished land plot in Jabal Amman. This five-star hotel will be linked to one of the largest trade centers in Amman, the World Trade Center—Amman. Hayat Hotel will include 310 rooms and

suites, and a center for businessmen.

The tender for the second stage of the hotel and its utilities will be invited in the first half of next year.

Zara is in the course of completing a feasibility study of the Aqaba Hotel tourist project that is planned to be built on the southern shore of the Gulf. The company is also studying the economic feasibility of Wadi Ram tourist project.

The study is being conducted in cooperation with an international consulting company, which is involved in the region's development and in encouraging desert tourism.

Zara For Investment has bought 2 million shares of Hotel InterContinental Jordan. This is in addition to increasing its subscription ratio in the company's total paid up capital to 27 percent.

Zara assets, in 1995 amounted to JD 36,114,984, and the shareholders' equity are put at JD 26,160,330. The company's net profits in the same year were JD 1,290,804. They were appropriated as follows: 10 percent as obligatory reserve, 20 percent as voluntary reserve, and JD 909,229 as a rotated deposit.

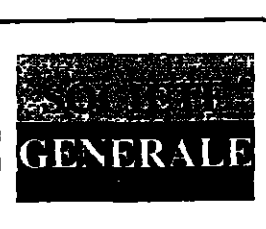
The total investments of Zara company amount to JD 130 million (\$180 million).

Société Generale holds regional meeting in Amman

THE MANAGEMENT of the giant French bank Société Générale has chosen Amman as the venue of the bank's regional conference scheduled for 16-18 May at the Marriott Hotel.

This regional meeting will bring together 30 delegates representing the Bank's management in Paris, and its branches and corporate institutes in the Middle East and North Africa. Mr Jacques Bouhet, general manager of the International Division of the Bank, will preside over the conference.

Société Générale is the biggest private bank in France, and ranks 19th among the world's largest banks. The total assets of Société Générale are worth PFR 1,600 billion, and its shareholders' equity amount to PFR 511 million. In 1995, Société Générale earned PFR 3.8 billion in profit. The bank has about 300 branches and associate corporations in over 70 countries.



ELF/Total sign deals with Iraq

● TOTAL SA and Elf Aquitaine, the French-owned oil giants have reopened their offices in Baghdad and signed agreements with the Iraqi government. They are now waiting the outcome of the oil for food talks that are currently going on in the United Nations, and an end to sanctions on Iraq.

A statement issued by the London-based opposition, the Iraqi National Congress, said that "A future democratic government in Iraq in the post-Saddam era will not honor agreements made between foreign oil companies and Saddam Hussein's regime."

"We see companies making deals with Saddam as supporters of the regime."

The INC said, "Deals with Saddam are morally indefensible and fiscally unwise. Saddam is using the greed of some oil companies as a lever to break the international isolation imposed upon his regime. These agreements will not profit those companies engaged in them; their only purpose is to maintain Saddam's power," and contacts.

"These companies and entities which are judged by a democratic government to have prolonged his dictatorship will have no place in Iraq's redevelopment," the statement added.

US okays bill on Gaza-West Bank free trade

By Warner Rose
USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—The Senate Finance Committee has approved legislation to allow goods produced in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and "qualifying industrial zones" in Israel, Jordan and Egypt to enter the United States under provisions equal to those of the US-Israel Free Trade Agreement.

Committee action on this legislation was tied to legislation to implement an international agreement to end shipbuilding subsidies.

That agreement, negotiated in the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), was signed in December 1994 by the most important shipbuilding nations—the United States, the European Union, Japan, South Korea and Norway.

The committee also approved on 8 May the reauthorization of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), a program that allows duty-free entry for many imports from most developing countries, retroactively to its expiration in July 1995.

The House passed a West Bank-Gaza bill in April 1996. If the Senate passes the West Bank-Gaza bill with the shipbuilding subsidy and GSP provisions added by the Senate Finance Committee, however, the bill would require at least

reconsideration in the House and, more likely, reconsideration by a House committee and a Senate-House conference.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman William Roth cited the crucial importance for fast passage of the OECD shipbuilding agreement before a June 15 deadline. "It took almost six years to negotiate this agreement, which will substantially reduce foreign shipbuilding subsidies," Roth said.

The shipbuilding agreement will cover about 80 percent of the world's shipbuilding capacity. Its four main provisions are:

■ Elimination of virtually all shipbuilding subsidies granted either directly to shipbuilders or indirectly through ship operators.

■ An "injurious-pricing" code modeled on the World Trade Organization (WTO) antidumping code that allows signatories to fine foreign shipyards that sell ships at unfairly low (or dumped) prices.

■ A set of rules for how governments will finance domestic and exported ship sales.

■ And a binding dispute-settlement procedures in the OECD.

The agreement would enter into force 30 days after the June 15 deadline. Of the five agreement signatories, the United States and Japan have not yet

Business Chronicle

On the Jordan-Egypt free trade zone

THE JORDANIAN-Egyptian Higher Joint Committee's agreement to establish a free-trade zone between the two countries is a positive initiative that lays down a basis for deeper economic relations not only on the bilateral, but also on the multilateral levels.

In the past, many statements were issued on the establishment of the Arab common market, and several agreements were signed on mutual trade exchange and Arab economic integration. However, the results and dividends in reality were far shorter than expected. The main reason given was the political differences and approaches of the signatory countries.

In today's world, not only the well-established experience of the European economic cooperation stands a good example of the over-riding economic interests over political differences among the partners concerned, but also the formation of similar blocs in other regions is to be admired. In addition, these developments confirm that it is the economy that determines the burning issues of peace, stability and cooperation.

The Jordan-Egypt agreement to create a free trade zone between the two countries seems to have drawn good lessons from the mistakes of the past. It is planned to be gradually accomplished by the year 2005. This means that legal, technical, and necessary measures will be thoroughly and duly discussed by them. Meanwhile, other steps and similar agreements could also be taken to incorporate other partners or even set up identical joint projects in neighboring countries.

Hence, if true intentions of economic and trade cooperation prevail on the bilateral and multi-lateral scales, then the aspirations to prosperity, sustainable development, and comprehensive peace and cooperation will certainly triumph in the region. The Jordan-Egypt free trade zone project should not be a cry in the wilderness, but a feasible and necessary undertaking that heralds the beginning of a new economic era.

British Midland signs agreement with Air Lanka

● MAJOR EUROPEAN Airline British Midland, signed a code-share agreement with Air Lanka.

The latest signing is the third with an Asian carrier and means British Midland customers travelling from regional UK airports can seamlessly transfer at London Heathrow onto Air Lanka's service to Sri Lanka.

Under the reciprocal agreement, effective immediately, customers travelling on British Midland flights from Belfast, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds Bradford and Teesside, will be able to connect at London Heathrow onto Air Lanka's service to Colombo. Connecting flights boarding passes and onward seat allocation will be issued at the point of departure. Checked, luggage will be transferred directly from British Midland to Air Lanka flights and vice-versa.

Air Lanka is the 12th major airline to sign a code-share agreement with British Midland which offers regional air passengers a greater choice of airlines when travelling to world-wide destinations.

British Midland currently operates code-share agreements with Air Canada, Alitalia, American Airlines, Austrian Airlines, United Airlines, Iberia, TAP Air Portugal, Cathay Pacific, Malaysia Airlines, SAS, Virgin Atlantic, Air Lanka and Royal Brunei.

Saatchi & Saatchi: No 1 advertising in region

● OFFICIAL FIGURES released by Advertising Age, the world's leading advertising industry newspaper, show that Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising is the number one billing agency in the major markets of the Middle East.

Combined 1995 billings of the Saatchi & Saatchi agencies in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Kuwait amounted last year to almost \$74 million, putting the agency ahead of BBDO, Leo Burnett and Intermarkets.

"We've always known that we were number one in creativity. After only six years in the region, it's nice to know we're also number one in billings," said Edward Jones, chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising Middle East (SSAME).

"The figures are even more impressive because in 1995 the Jordan agency was still a fledgling and the Kuwait office had not yet opened" added John McNeel, CEO of SSAME.

MARKET WATCH 11-14 MAY

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
↑ Livestock & Poultry 5.17 ↑ Arab Medical Supplies 4.81 ↑ Jordan Rockwood Industry 4.08	↑ Arab Medical Supplies 2.82 ↑ Jordan Petroleum Refinery 0.60 ↑ Byssos 0.39	↑ Philadelphia Bank 4.96 ↑ Amman Investment Bank 4.65 ↑ Jordan Industry Supplies 2.50	↑ Dir Adva for Investment 5.05 ↑ Universal Industry 4.98 ↑ Amman Investment Bank 4.44
↓ Arab Paper Industry 5.19 ↓ Business Bank 5.15 ↓ Jordan Pipes Industry 5.02	↓ United Land Development 5.36 ↓ Expatriates Investment Holding 5.45 ↓ National Shipping 5.19	↓ National Cable 5.15 ↓ Dir Adva for Investment 5.10 ↓ Arab Pharm. Industry 5.08	↓ Jordan Press Foundation 5.01 ↓ United Investment Bank 4.82 ↓ Nyzzak Industry 3.32
General Price Pointer 147.430	147.040	147.610	147.880
Trade Volume 1497042	980936	361434	518221
Stock Volume 1284979	627832	557170	413493
Highest Traded Stocks			
↑ Land Development 863.986 ↑ Arab Bank 192.640	↑ Livestock & Poultry 57.988	↑ Livestock & Poultry 57.988	

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949

Lenin still exalted by many Russians

Lenin's legacy remains deeply rooted in the Communists' agenda and statements, but in his party's latest election program, Zyuganov does not mention Lenin's name

By David Hoffman
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

MOSCOW—They wound their way through the granite tomb, down the long stairs, past the watchful uniformed guards, into the high-ceilinged vault, around the glass sarcophagus where Vladimir Ilyich Lenin lies embalmed, and then back up the stairs into the open expanse of Red Square on a bright spring day.

Pausing with her small tour group outside the tomb, Larissa Zakharova could not say precisely what it meant to visit Lenin's Mausoleum, once a shrine, now a symbol of a bygone era, another tourist stop in the shadow of history.

"We have been brought up on Lenin's ideas," said Zakharova, a musician, explaining why she brought her son Maxim, 10, on a school-holiday excursion to see the founder of the Soviet Union. "When I was a little girl, I came here, and I want to keep up the tradition."

Yet Zakharova, in stylish coat and scarf, said she did not want to go back to the Soviet era. "One thing I didn't like," she said firmly. "All the people had to think the same ideas. I want to be different."

Her comments reflect the ambivalence of many Russians toward both their troubled history and their uncertain future as the presidential campaign gains momentum.

Front and center in this campaign are the resurgent Communists. The Communist Party leader, Gennady Zyuganov, leads in opinion polls for president; the Communist faction is the largest in the lower house of parliament, which recently cast a symbolic vote sponsored by Communists to reconstitute the Soviet Union. In many ways, the Russian election campaign already hinges on a simple, polarized choice between the Communists and President Boris Yeltsin.

But there are many signs that Russian voters, while they might bring Communists back to power, are not interested in bringing communism back. They may yearn for the perceived tranquility of the old days, for the remembered certainties of daily life, for subsidies, free health care and education, but for the most part they are not demanding resurrection of the old ideology.

If anything, Russians seem to fear a return to the old system, and this fear is the major underlying theme of Yeltsin's campaign for re-election. "Russia will not survive another 1917," he said recently.

In fact, although the Soviet Union and the ideology of a "bright future" under communism have collapsed, the old order has yet to be replaced by anything new. According to pollsters and sociologists, that has left many voters adrift, unsure of what the past meant, or the future holds.

Like a noisy and bewildering bazaar, the Russian political landscape is littered with competing ideologies. Michael McFaul, a Stanford University professor, said recently that out of this confusion, last year's election showed that Russia is beginning to coalesce around two broad, competing ideas—for reform and against it. How voters make this choice may well decide the election, and Russia's future.

Lenin's Mausoleum was once the pre-eminent Soviet shrine. According to the late historian Dmitri Volkogonov, after Lenin's death in 1924 the idea of mummifying his body came about because Joseph Stalin recognized the enormous symbolic value of keeping it on display.

Volkogonov wrote in his critical 1994 biography of Lenin that creating the tomb was "the first decisive step toward turning Lenin's ideas into a secular religion."

The mausoleum was rehoused in granite in 1933, and millions of dollars were spent on preserving Lenin's relics. His brain was carved into 3,963 sections preserved in wax for study by a special laboratory of scientists who wanted to show that his mind was extraordinary. Millions of Soviet citizens and school children made the pilgrimage to his mausoleum.

"An entire mechanism was put in place to manage Lenin's embalmed body, which had become vitally necessary for its effect on the psychology of the masses," Volkogonov said. "For the Bolsheviks, it was one means of personifying the immortality of Lenin's precepts, although on the eve of the 21st century, rather than serving as a testimony of the man's greatness, it is instead a reminder of the depth of the country's historic failure."

Yeltsin, a former Communist Party regional boss who played a key role in destroying Lenin's state, at one point considered burying Lenin. But Lenin has had an exalted place in the Russian consciousness; polls show him regarded as greater than all the leaders of the Soviet Union and Russia who came after him. Yeltsin removed the goose-stepping guards in front of the tomb but has left Lenin on exhibit.

Russians still line up to visit the tomb, although fewer than in earlier times. They no longer come out of awe, but because Lenin was a part of their history.

"You can't take things away from history," Zakharova said. "I tell my children I was in the Young Communist League, the Komsomol. I was a Pioneer and went to children's Pioneer camps. We had a happy childhood. You know, you see great things only from a distance."

"The mausoleum is a symbol of the lost order, of yearning for former times of stability," said Vladimir Lapkin, deputy head of the analytical center at the Public Opinion Foundation. In surveys, he said, few Russians say they respect



Lenin as a statesman, but a third of the population still thinks it wrong to criticize him.

"The modern times overthrew the old ideological convictions, without offering anything new in return," he said.

What people want, Lapkin said, is "no fundamental changes" in their lives, no further "destabilization" of society. "Our conclusion is that the dominating motif in people's sentiments in Russia now is striving for stability. There is a nostalgia, but it is a nostalgia for stability."

"In many studies, we've found that people feel they have nothing ideological in their lives," said Masha Volkenshtein, president of Validata, a public opinion research firm. "They don't know what society lives for. They feel there is a lack, an empty place. They are used to this feeling that society should live for some kind of goal, and society should have something to believe in. They have nothing."

Even Zyuganov, sensing the mood, has been trying to cast himself as a social democrat and nationalist, rather than an orthodox Communist, which he was. Lenin's legacy remains deeply rooted in the Communists' agenda and statements, but in his party's latest election program, Zyuganov does not mention Lenin's name.

India's Congress Party pledges anti-nationalist coalition

By John-Thor Dahlburg
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

NEW DELHI, India—Caretaker Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao reasserted his leadership last Sunday as his Congress (I) Party, rocked by election defeat, pledged to join with other nonreligious parties in an effort to bar Hindu nationalists from forming India's next government.

"All our forces would be guided by one principle... that is to keep communal forces out of power," said External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, a powerful Congress leader and Rao ally.

In the evening, Congress members from both chambers of India's legislature thumped their desks as they unanimously re-elected the 74-year-old Rao their leader in Parliament.

It was an ostentatious display of unity by a political machine that had just suffered its worst-ever defeat in national elections after leading India for a total of more than 44 years.

Some party members have blamed Rao's brand of leadership—a mixture of blandness and skillful, behind-the-scenes intrigue—for the debacle. But at a meeting earlier last Sunday of the powerful Congress Working Committee, party officials said, there were no objections raised to Rao continuing as party president.

The issue, however, may rebound later this week. The committee have met again last Wednesday and the possibility of separating the premiership and the party presidency did arise.

The United News of India said Rao agreed at the committee's closed-door meeting to let the issue—tantamount to a reduction in his power—be discussed and that his assent softened the opposition of

some committee members to his re-election as party president.

In a statement, the committee accepted the verdict of the voters "with humility" but said a government including the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, the biggest winner in the national parliamentary elections, would be "a threat to the secular foundations of the Indian Republic."

Mukherjee said Congress leaders have not yet decided whether to join with the National Front-Left Front—a loose coalition of secular, leftist and Communist parties—in trying to form a non-BJP government or merely to support the other parties during votes in Parliament. "The option is open," Mukherjee said.

With almost all the ballots counted in the national vote, the arithmetic shifted to make Congress support indispensable if the National Front-Left Front is to come to power. The BJP and its allies had collected 181 seats in the 545-member Parliament.

BJP gains in Bihar state helped cut the National Front-Left Front total to 108, fewer than originally projected. Congress has won 137 seats.

The National Front-Left Front, hostile to the Congress party during the election campaign, quickly toned down its rhetoric in the face of the BJP's triumph. As recently as last Friday, its leaders demanded that Rao be replaced as Congress president as a precondition to forming an anti-BJP alliance, but many were moving away from that demand over the weekend.

Rao resigned last Friday after serving as prime minister for nearly five years, a period during which he shifted gears in the Indian economy and implemented many market-driven reforms. President Shankar Dayal Sharma asked Rao to stay on as caretaker until a new government can be formed.

Censors' sword is mightier than Arab cartoonists' pen

By Shyam Bhatia

CARTOONIST BAHAA AL Boukhari still glances over his shoulder as he leaves home every morning to drive to his office at the *Al Quds* newspaper in Arab East Jerusalem. Boukhari, 52, a Palestinian, is aware that he overstepped the mark when he dared to ridicule all-powerful Palestinian police chief Brigadier Ghazi Jabbali. Jabbali, who reports directly to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, has learned to "respect" the influence of the media. He understands the power of the written word and, more recently, has also started to "appreciate" the value of political cartoons.

Yet Jabbali is himself a caricature of the paranoid Arab government official who cannot tolerate dissent and must punish those who dare to think independently. He so enjoys giving orders to his subordinates that he sometimes gets carried away and issues instructions to Palestinian journalists.

Last year he banned the distribution of Palestinian newspapers because they refused to publish his version of an opposition rally in Gaza. Foreign news agencies had reported that 50,000 people attended the gathering organized by Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement. Jabbali's office telephoned Palestinian editors

to tell them that the real figure was less than 5,000.

When his numbers were ignored in favor of the agencies' estimates, Jabbali confiscated tens of thousands of copies of the offending newspapers.

For three days no Palestinian editor dared to react. The only man to carry the flag of protest was Boukhari. His cartoon, published in *Al Quds*, the largest Palestinian newspaper, depicts a desk-bound Jabbali, as a raging tyrant, the title on his desk reads "Ruler by Order of God." On a bookshelf behind him are a pair of scissors and handcuffs.

When the cartoon was brought to Jabbali's attention,

he let it be known that he would retaliate at a time of his choosing. "They said he was very upset and not to approach him," said Boukhari, "I even heard he sent people to look for me, but I don't care."

Despite the bravado, Boukhari knows he is playing with fire. Cartoons have been part of the Arab political landscape for decades, but the absence of democracy in the Arab world means that those who practice their art must walk a tightrope. Some lose their balance and have paid with their lives. The most renowned victim was London-based Palestinian cartoonist Naji Ali, believed to have been killed in 1982 by the brutality of the Israeli occupation and the daily sufferings of the Palestinians.

When Israeli jets bombed Lebanon during Operation Grapes of Wrath, Arab cartoonists fired back with anti-Semitic salvos. Long-nosed Jewish characters were depicted as bloodthirsty human vampires trampling on the bodies of innocent children. At the same time the cartoonists poured scorn on the inability of their fellow Arabs to come to the rescue of thousands of innocent Lebanese civilians.

Hundreds of Palestinian cartoons never saw the light of day after the Israeli censor banned them "for security reasons." Boukhari claims that at least 20 per cent of his creations are still rejected.

For 16 years the American trained Boukhari's cartoons appeared in leading Kuwaiti newspapers. But his relations with Kuwait's fabulously wealthy oil sheikhs deteriorated when he began targeting Egypt's President Anwar Sadat. "When they asked me to stop drawing Sadat, I created a new character, Abu Arab, and put him in Arab dress. He could be any Arab leader."

Many Arab cartoonists have been forced to leave their countries and work from exile in the West. London and Paris are favorite alternatives to Beirut, Damascus, Baghdad and other Arab capitals.

"Cartoonists are oppressed in the Arab world," explains the celebrated Lebanese cartoonist, Mahmoud Kahlil. "Some times we have to be ambiguous to avoid the censorship and other dangers. No one deserves to die because of a cartoon or an article. What happened to the late Naji Ali was a catastrophe for liberty and Arab cartoonists."



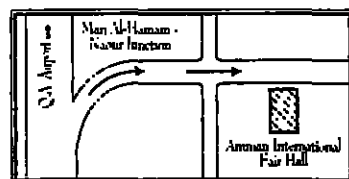
Just one of the many satirical cartoons of Boukhari on the new Palestinian political system

THE AMERICAN EMBASSY
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Amman International Fair Hall - Mari Al-Hamam May 12-17 1996
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Live Music entertainment: May 12-17, Music Variation from 6:00-8:00pm and Flamenco, from 8:00-10:00pm
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- Jordan Press Foundation (Al-Rai / Jordan Times). * Jordan Radio Paging (JRP).
- Nidal Ahmed Chemical Est. * M. Y. Bihaz & Sons Co. * Nishi Stores.
- Modern Educational Systems (MES). * Jordan Ice And Aerated Water Co. Ltd.
- SN Technology Group. * Sarab Engineering. * Sensoromatic (Sound & Security).
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May 1996

A special section offering
fresh perspectives on
global issues prepared for

The Star

THE WORLD PAPER

PRINTED IN FIVE LANGUAGES
ON FIVE CONTINENTS



Ancient scourges get a taste of their own medicine

Behind the headlines about AIDS and the Ebola virus is a less heralded story. Three of history's great killers and maimers—smallpox, leprosy and polio—are on death row. By the middle of the next century, there will probably be no new cases of these diseases. Is this the start of a new chapter in medical science, or simply a footnote?

By Crocker Snow, Jr.

IT'S BEEN THE sound of one hand clapping. It should be the sound of three billion hands.

Amplifying this classical Zen catchism is a good way to recognize the eradication of smallpox. It will be the first complete elimination of a natural disease in human history, according to medical historians. Accomplished largely by the United Nations' World Health Organization in little more than a dozen years, the eradication of this disease represents a victory for science, for rationality, for communalism on a global scale. It is a grand accomplishment for the global village.

As recently as 1965, the WHO recorded more than 10 million people afflicted with smallpox, which for many caused blindness, disfigurement or death. More than two million deaths were being recorded annually. Some 31 countries harbored the disease, compelling the international traveler to carry the tell-tale yellow card with proof of vaccination. I still have mine.

So what happened?

When English scientist Edward Jenner inoculated 8-year-old James Phipps with cowpox two centuries ago, thereby protecting him from

smallpox, the door began to close on this ancient scourge. But it took nearly two centuries for the world to summon up the collective will to slam that door. In 1966, the international community, led by member delegates at WHO, reached agreement that eradication of smallpox was possible—a positive pox on everyone's house—and should be achieved. The stark and simple goal was set.

The decision to execute smallpox was one of the few things that didn't touch, and apparently wasn't affected by, the Cold War. Like US President John Kennedy's national decision in 1961 to land a man on the moon, the line was drawn with politically indelible ink. International political will, utilizing established medical and communications technology, was focused. The vaccination program was launched and highly publicized in the 31 countries, ranging from India to Indonesia, where the disease was still rampant.

By the late 1970s victory was in sight, and on May 8, 1980, the World Health Assembly certified the eradication of smallpox. By 1993, a gathering of scientists proposed the elimination of the laboratory stocks of the smallpox virus, thereby stamping out the last embers that could rekindle the killer disease.

The execution itself, however, has been delayed several times. Initially WHO officials were concerned that insufficient cross-cultural scientific attention had been focused on the ramifications of destroying the last viruses. Governments ranging from Australia to France objected on various grounds.

The debate, insofar as there has been one, has been languid. Opponents of destroying the virus, including some eminent in the scientific community, say there still may be hidden cases in cadavers or unknown repositories, that it's anti-science to fully eradicate anything from nature and you just never know.

Proponents of destroying the lab virus say that it will eliminate any possibility of terrorists hijacking the remaining two supplies at the Centers

for Disease Control in Atlanta and the Research Center for Virology and Biotechnology in Koltsovo, Novosibirsk. With the virus goes the possibility of it being used for biological warfare. The virus has been fully studied, they say, for all its scientific worth, vaccines have been stockpiled and there is, in short, no earthly reason not to get rid of it.

The sarin gas attack engineered in the Tokyo subway system a year ago by the Aum Shinrikyo cult has given strength to the fear of terrorism forces. A last laboratory study by Atlanta scientists of smallpox virus properties has been undertaken, 500,000 vaccines have been stored against any future eventuality, and the final confirming vote for eradication by the WHO's governing board was scheduled for this month in Geneva. Impulses against pulling the plug still exist. But a unanimous "yes" vote is expected; that will mean that the last viruses will be fried simultaneously at temperatures of 350 degrees Fahrenheit in vacuum chambers in Atlanta and Koltsovo in June 1999, six months before the dawn of the 21st century.

In one way, this is the story of this century. It's bigger than the Olympics or Mao's Long March. It's bigger than the atomic clouds over Hiroshima or Nagasaki. But you wouldn't know it from the public press or the posturing by political personalities. As a story, the eradication of smallpox has been displayed on the obit page. Appropriate to the

subject perhaps, but not to its significance.

The snuffing out of smallpox is practically, physically and even spiritually a triumph for mankind working together towards a common goal. It comes at a time when the HIV virus continues to afflict young people and baffle science throughout the world, when the

connection between Britain's sorry mad cows and the human neurological poisoning known as Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease is exploding onto the media's radar screen. It comes when efforts to achieve full eradication of ABC (atomic, biological or chemical) weapons are languishing, when science is still seen as Star Wars dangerous and when the UN is dismissed as wasteful and inept.

The end of what was considered one of the world's foremost diseases only 50 years ago is a counter-intuitive triumph for mankind. It deserves more than one hand clapping. ©

CROCKER SNOW JR. IS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF *The World Paper*.

A destroyer of childhood dies hard

For a generation of Australians, polio has two lives

By Anna Patty

AS AUSTRALIA DRAWS near to officially declaring the eradication of polio, nearly half of the country's 40,000 victims are getting an unwelcome reminder of the disease that crippled their youth.

Polio epidemics swept the world during the 1950s and 1960s. Amid widespread uncertainty about how the disease was spread, children were forbidden to use swimming pools, schools were closed and crowds avoided.

Symptoms of the disease were deceptively mild at the onset, with a slight fever and diarrhea. But for many, this progressed into a stiff neck and muscle aches, with 20 percent of the victims experiencing some form of paralysis. The worst afflicted were placed in iron lungs to keep them breathing.

Ken Masom, 62, was 19 when he contracted poliomyelitis, also known as infantile paralysis. The virus paralyzed his legs, but eventually he recovered full use of them.

In recent years, however, Masom has been forced to use an electric wheelchair as the muscles in his legs again atrophied. As many as 20,000 Australians are having similar relapses, a condition now known as post-polio syndrome.

As Australians like Masom battle polio's effects for a second time, there is little remaining evidence of the virus that struck them down and afflicted 39 of every 100,000 Australians at its peak in 1938. Vaccines developed by Dr. Jonas Salk and Dr. Albert Sabin eventually halted the epidemics after widespread immunization was introduced in 1958.

Today, Australia is leading the

Asia-Pacific region in the drive to eradicate the disease. Having declared smallpox eradicated in 1980, the World Health Organization (WHO) expects to sound the death knell for the polio virus by 2000.

Since WHO launched its initiative, the number of reported cases worldwide has fallen from 35,255 in 1988 to 6,421 in 1994. During that time, the Americas were declared polio-free, and the WHO estimates US\$3 billion a year is being saved in health costs and lost productivity.

Australia's last case of polio from a "wild" virus was reported in 1978. Since then, there have been two cases stemming from the treated virus used in vaccines. Last year, an unvaccinated 22-year-old woman from the northern state of Queensland contracted polio from her child. It is thought she became infected while changing her child's diaper.

According to doctors, the treated virus used in vaccines becomes more aggressive as it passes through the digestive tract. There is one chance in 3 million that the person being vaccinated will get polio, and one chance in 2 million that somebody coming in close contact with a recently vaccinated child will get the disease.

WHO officials met in Canberra last month to finalize the criteria Australia must satisfy in order to be declared polio-free. This includes documentation proving that there have been no cases of "wild" polio for three years, and evidence of comprehensive surveillance to ensure no case of the disease goes undetected.

The two main obstacles to eradication are Australia's casual approach to vaccination and the presence of the disease in other countries of the Western Pacific region. Australia still has one of the worst childhood vaccination rates in the world, with only 53 percent of children fully immunized by the age of 6.

Polio is on the wane in neighboring countries, and 14 of the 15 wild cases reported last year came from the Mekong Delta region of Cambodia and Vietnam. That the virus is now confined to this region is due, in part,

Venezuelans find little time to celebrate the eradication of smallpox

Trading one set of ills for another

By Néstor Rojas

HIDDEN AWAY in his office cubicle, a veteran epidemiologist reads the numbers on the latest disease reports from around Venezuela. He soon realizes that the red marker in his hand—used for flagging worrisome statistics or new outbreaks of disease—is getting more use than expected.

Although Venezuela, like most nations, has eradicated such feared dis-

eases as smallpox, polio and yellow fever, ground has been lost in other areas, notably in efforts against tuberculosis, malaria, encephalitis and dengue fever.

"It's one step forward, one step back," said José Avilán Rovira, statistician and epidemiologist at the Central University of Venezuela. Some experts put the blame, at least partially, on deteriorating economic and social conditions in this oil-rich nation of 22 million people.

Avilán Rovira did a comparative study of contagious diseases over the last decade and concluded that none of Venezuela's 22 states had achieved an acceptable level of disease control. "Despite our efforts, measles and whooping cough are still causing fatalities among children," he noted.

The biggest problem this past year was a combined epidemic of dengue fever and encephalitis near the city of Maracaibo in the country's main oil-

producing region.

An estimated 20,000 cases of dengue and another 20,000 of encephalitis left at least 15 people dead, possibly many more. Authorities estimated that perhaps 70 members of the Guajira indigenous tribe had died, but said they were uncertain because Guajira leaders don't provide statistics.

The epidemic shook the foundations of the public health system and provoked Congress to fire the health minister—something that hadn't happened in 38 years of democratic government in Venezuela. Health officials were blamed for not maintaining an effective vaccination program against equine encephalitis, which affects horses and donkeys and is spread by mosquitoes who carry the virus from animals to humans.

Dengue fever is also spread by mosquitoes, and there were accusations that authorities had gone lax in efforts to control breeding of the insects. The fired minister denied there had been negligence on the part of public health authorities, implying that the epidemics were sudden and unforeseen.

Hernán Málaga, a Peruvian who heads the Caracas office of the Pan-American Health Organization, disagreed. "Up through the 1980s,

► ONE SET OF ILLS PAGE 2



James W. Rouse 1914-1996

James W. Rouse, one of four founding shareholders of *World Times* and *The World Paper* in 1978, passed away last month at age 81 in his hometown of Columbia, Maryland.

Dedicated to enriching and enlivening city-life, he was, at his death, perhaps the world's leading urban renewal evangelist. He practiced what he preached as the highly successful entrepreneurial developer of the first shopping malls, of multi-purpose festival marketplaces (Quincy Market in Boston, South Street Seaport in New York, the Harborplace in Baltimore) and the planned community of Columbia, Maryland. Established in 1967, as an antidote to unplanned suburban sprawl, Columbia today counts a mixed population of 82,000.

The success of such projects built the Rouse Company to a market value of \$450 million by the time Rouse retired as chairman in 1985. He then founded the non-profit Enterprise Foundation with his wife Patricia, focusing on affordable urban housing for the poor. For his fresh and successful development vision, he was the subject of a *Time Magazine* cover story and, last year, was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton.

Rouse's rare mix of realism and optimism was reflected in his involvement with *The World Paper*. He was a committed supporter, intellectually and materially, during the paper's unsteady formative years. "You can do something good in this world or you can make money," he once reminded the early shareholders and editors. "The trick for us is to make money while doing good. That's real success."

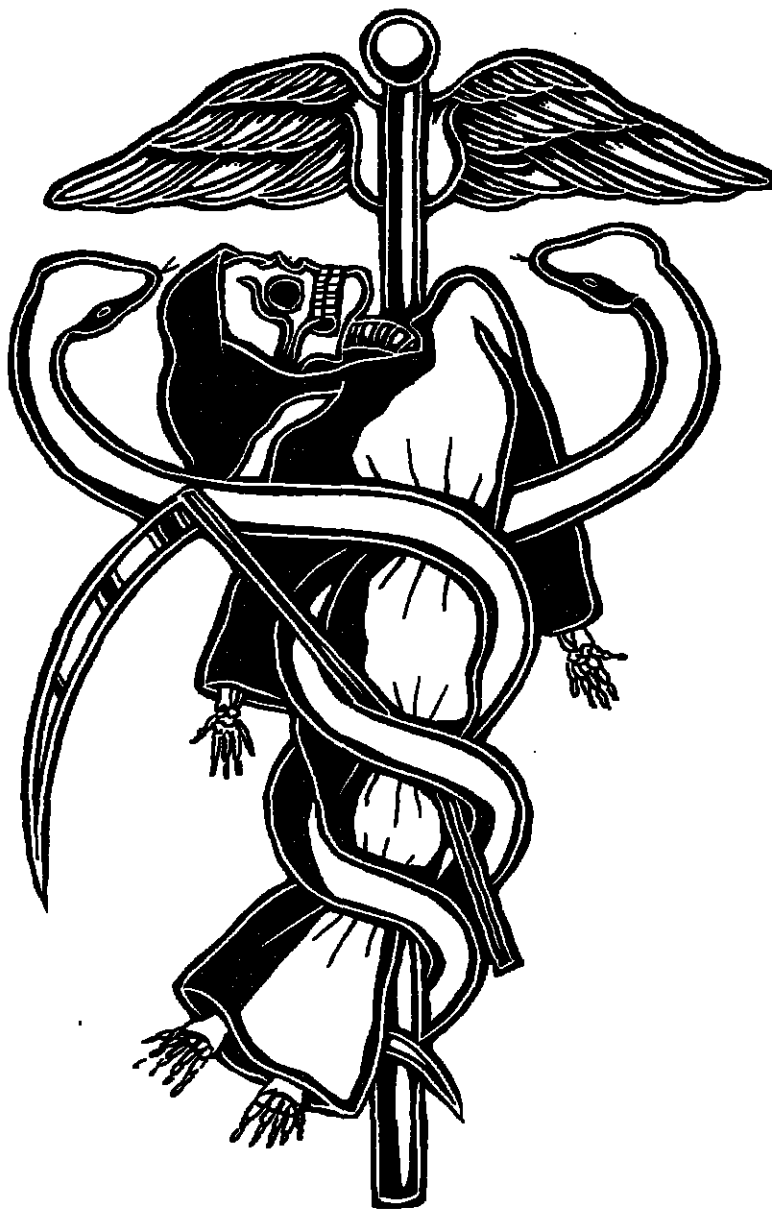
Rouse was an eternal optimist. He consistently looked on the bright side of *The World Paper's* role in improving international understanding of key global issues. As *World Paper* shareholders and members of the executive committee, Jim and Patty participated in editorial meetings in China, Poland, Romania, Egypt, Ecuador and Colombia, and insisted on visiting inner cities in all these countries. Rouse's international sensitivities attracted overseas urban renewal assignments in countries as varied as Japan, the Czech Republic, Northern Ireland and Australia. A pillar of *The World Paper* enterprise, Jim Rouse's consistently positive influence is his enduring legacy.

► TWO LIVES PAGE 2

Research may be leprosy's best friend

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—By *Rachelle H. B. Fishman*

Fatalities from tuberculosis also increased in 1990, surpassing 1,000 for the first time in 20 years (although this is nothing like the turn of the century when TB killed per-

According to the institute's director, Professor Simon Gandevia, the resurgence of polio-like symptoms owes less to muscle damage than it does to a brain-related impairment and the effects of aging. Nevertheless, the cumulative effect is a 1 to 2 percent increase in muscle fatigue each year, and for some survivors this means they must confront polio for the second time in their lives. (1)

ANNA PATTY IS THE MEDICAL
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5TH PRIZE 3 OUT OF 6	1,154,928	\$10.00
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4 Boards <input type="checkbox"/> \$180.	<input type="checkbox"/> \$450.	<input type="checkbox"/> \$900.
5 Boards <input type="checkbox"/> \$225.	<input type="checkbox"/> \$562.	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1125.
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8:00—8:05	8:00

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Cinema

"FULL BODY MASSAGE" (Paramount,): Nicolas Roeg ("The Man Who Fell to Earth") directed this drama — originally shown on cable's Showtime — about a masseur's (Bryan Brown) link to an art-gallery owner (Mimi Rogers) who is one of his clients. Though their relationship is strictly professional at the outset, it soon takes on many different shadings as they start to develop personal ties. ** (Not rated: AS, N, P, V)

"JOSH KIRBY... TIME WARRIOR: JOURNEY TO THE MAGIC CAVERN" (Paramount,): The bizarre world of the so-called "Mushroom People" poses dilemmas for time-traveler Josh (Corbin Allred) and his compatriots in this latest chapter of the made-for-video serial. As if they don't have enough trouble with those creatures, they also have a showdown with the sinister Dr. Zootrope. ** (Not rated: P, V)

"HELD OVER: 'STRANGE DAYS'" (Fox,): Director James Cameron's ("The Terminator," "True Lies") inventive, visually dazzling melodrama of the near-future casts Ralph Fiennes as a seller of people's virtual-reality experiences at the time of the millennium. His own immersion into one of the "borrowed memories" thrusts him into life-threatening danger; Angela Bassett, Juliette Lewis and Tom Sizemore also star. *** (R: AS, P, V)

"FACES" (Fox Lorber,): Arriving on video along with another of film auteur John Cassavetes' never-before-on-tape dramas, "Faces" is this emotionally grueling 1968 survey of a number of couples focuses on the theme of infidelity... which appears to run rampant among them. Cast members include Gena Rowlands (Cassavetes' widow), John Marley, Lynn Carlin and Seymour Cassel ("Under Suspicion"). (R: AS, P)

"THE MANY ADVENTURES OF WINNIE THE POOH" (Disney,): A.A. Milne's lovable character and all of his pals — Piglet, Eeyore, Tigger and the other dwellers of the Hundred Acre Wood — find plenty of misadventure in their usual habitat in this animated offering. The release compiles the featurettes "Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree" and "Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day," and also includes extra footage. *** (G)

COMING SOON: "WAITING TO EXHALE" (Fox, April 23): Whitney Houston and Angela Bassett head the cast of novelist Terry McMillan's drama about four close female friends. (R)

"THE ARISTOCATS" (Disney, April 24): The animated classic about high-living felines features the voices of Phil Harris, Eva Gabor and ventriloquist Paul Winchell. (G)

"HOW TO MAKE AN AMERICAN QUILT" (MCA/Universal, April 30): Winona Ryder plays a young woman who gets valuable lessons in life from her female elders. (PG-13)

FAMILY-VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.

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ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

3:00—Moomin
3:30—Pumpkin Patch
3:55—Blue Heelers
4:35—Big Brother Jake
5:00—News Flash
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—The Arab Cup Winners (Cup Championship)
9:10—Prism
9:40—News at Ten
10:00—Eurovision Song Contest (Live from Oslo)

SUNDAY

3:00—The Flintstones
3:30—Bush School
3:45—Mac and Mudey
4:10—Italian Soccer
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Cinema, Cinema
8:00—The American Chart Show
8:45—The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
9:10—Black's Magic
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:15—Counterstrike

MONDAY

3:00—Bonkers
3:30—Richie Rich
3:55—Playabout
4:00—Animals of the Mediterranean
4:35—Bustin' Loose
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—The Arab Cup

Winners (Cup Championship)

9:10—100 Years of Capitalism in Korea
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:10—P.S. I Love U
11:55—Taurus Rising

TUESDAY

3:00—Iris: the Happy Professor
3:20—Captain Planet
3:45—Scientific Eye
4:10—The Bob Morrison Show
4:35—AIH
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Encounter
8:00—Home Improvement
8:25—Life in the Freezer
9:10—Star Trek
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:10—Feature Film: Jaws II, starring: Roy Scheider

WEDNESDAY

3:00—The Flintstones
3:30—Dinosaurs
3:55—The New 3 Stooges
4:00—Bill Nye the Science Guy
4:30—Alex Mac
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Evening Shade
8:00—Computer Chronicles
8:30—Chancer
9:10—UEFA Champions League Final
10:00—News at Ten
10:15—UEFA Champions



Star Trek, on Monday at 9:10pm

League Final Second Half

11:55—Airwolf

THURSDAY

3:00—Aladdin
3:30—The New 3 Stooges
3:35—NBA
4:35—Pirates
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Carol and Company
8:00—Taratata
9:10—Star Trek
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Feature Film: Snowbound, starring: Neil Patrick Harris

FRIDAY

3:00—Iris the Happy Professor
3:20—The Pebbles and Bamm Bamm Show
3:45—Bush School
3:55—See How They Grow
4:05—Gillette World Sports Special
4:30—Crystal Maze
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Growing Pains
8:00—Nasty Boys
8:45—It Had To Be You
9:10—The Hanging Gale

10:00—News at Ten

10:25—Classic Movie: Show Boat, starring: Kathryn Grayson

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

SAMEDI

5:00—Dessins animés Ordy
5:15—Emission jeunesse La vie devant moi
5:30—Jeux Que le meilleur gagne
6:00—Magazine Savoir plus santé
7:00—Le journal Ushualta
7:15—Magazine Sports et musique

DIMANCHE

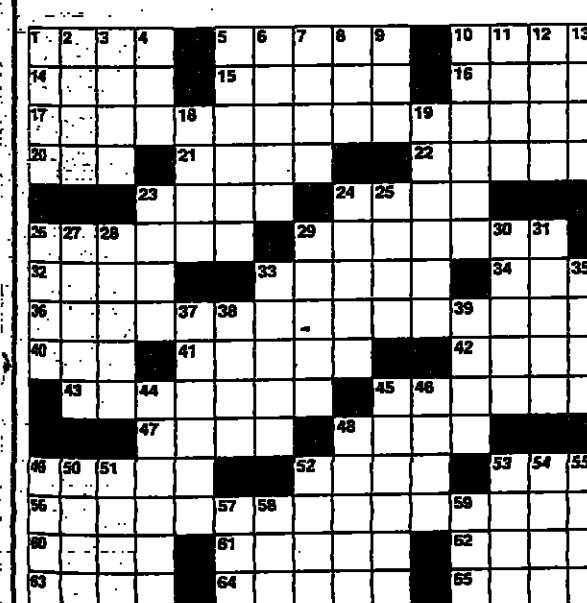
5:00—Dessins animés Ordy
5:15—Emission jeunesse La vie devant moi
5:30—Jeux Que le meilleur gagne
6:00—Magazine Envoyé spécial «Pillule magique: La croix rouge»
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine Sports et musique

LUNDI

5:00—Dessins animés Ordy
5:15—Divertissement L'école des fans «Hughes Aufray»
6:00—Magazine Thalassa
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine

Programs are subject to change by JTV

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1 Overstuffed
5 Altair
10 Qualified
14 Papal tribunal
15 Follow
16 Unheeding
17 On the... (impulsively)
20 Decade number
21 Telegram
22 Small pests
23 Say it isn't
24 Garden worker
28 Roughen by rubbing
32 Soothe
33 Menu
34 Wind
36 Erratically
40 Snigger's catch

DOWN

1 Formerly, formerly
2 Bounding gill
3 Daze
4 Corn unit
5 Purify
6 Foyer
7 Tennis great
8 Signal
9 Dress edge
10 Value
11 Highly
12 Borscht
13 Ingredient
14 Country road
15 Newts
16 Was in debt
17 Egg dish
18 Spanish priest
19 Tends sheep
20 Chooses
21 French cleverman
22 French actor, Charles—
23 Firearm
24 Comedy author
25 Before time or cotta
26 Restrain
27 San Francisco hill
28 Expire
29 Male

—THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: The sun and moon are both in Aries. That should motivate even the most determined couch potato to get outside for some exercise.

Aries (March 21-April 19). The Sun's going out of your sign with a flourish this year. Do everything you've been contemplating. Balance your checkbook so you can go shopping.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). You're under lots of pressure. It seems like everything's coming due at the same time. Things start changing for the better soon, though.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). What with club meetings, parties and sports activities, you may be tempted to shine on your regular job.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Don't get all wiggly if somebody yells at you. Tempers will be short and emotions intense. Either participate or stay out of the way.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Get out for a run. A tough supervisor will be even more insufferable, so don't bother to argue. Party with friends as much as possible.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You could make a pretty good deal. Check the job board and stop in for a chat with the people who know about those things.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're in for a wild ride. Expect all your buttons to get pushed, by a person you find fascinating and repulsive simultaneously.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your workload increases. You'll need every bit of energy you can muster to finish a tough assignment.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If you're not in love now, you will be soon. Cupid has you in his sights. A situation you don't want to deal with pushes you to make a change.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may choose to stay home. If you're not actually sick, consider it preventive medicine. Something there needs your attention, anyway.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are brilliant. You're generating enough current to read by.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Call a friend for inspiration. You'll need it. If you win the lottery, promise you won't spend it all.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Make up a budget this year and stick to it. You're making lots of money, so don't waste it all.

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Bridge

Pick the Trump Suit
By Tannah Hirsch

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A K 10
♥ Q J 8 2
♦ Void
♣ A Q J 9 8 6

WEST
♠ J 8 2
♥ 7 6 3
♦ 7 6 4 3 2
♣ 7 2

EAST
♠ Q 6 5 3
♥ 5 4
♦ A K J 10 8 5
♣ 3

SOUTH
♠ 9 7 4
♥ A K 10 9
♦ Q 9
♣ K 10 5 4

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1♣	1♦	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
5NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

It is hard to find anything in the multitude of bridge books on choosing the right trump suit. Only the late Albert Moorehead, in his classic "Moorehead on Bidding," went into the subject in any depth. It is not enough simply to choose your strongest suit. For example, a 4-4 fit would, in many circum-

stances, be preferable to a 5-4 or even a 6-4 fit, since you can take discards on your long suit while keeping trump control in either the closed hand or dummy. One time it is right to choose the stronger suit is when the side 4-4 fit consists of two weak four-card suits and you might be able to discard potential losers in your shorter fit on a third suit in one hand or the other. Another instance when you should choose the stronger fit rather than the 4-4 is when the long suit won't provide useful discards in the other hand. That lessens the chance of an opposing ruff in the not-trump combination.

Look at this hand from a team match. In one room North-South breezed into a grand slam in clubs which had no play as the cards lie. Declarer could score only two spade tricks, six trumps and four hearts — down one.

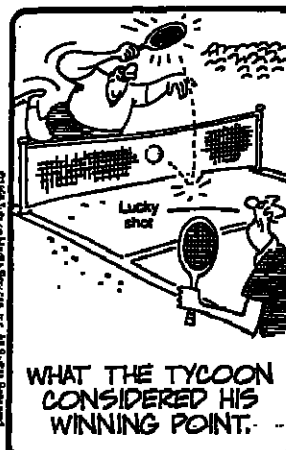
At the other table the bidding went as shown. North showed a strong hand with the cue-bid of the enemy suit. South twice raised clubs, promising at least good four-card support. North then cue-bid spades and used the Grand Slam Force to check on trump honors. South's jump to seven hearts promised two of the top three.

There was nothing to the play. Besides the same 12 tricks available in clubs, declarer scored a diamond ruff in dummy to bring the total to 13.

Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LAQUI
HEWIG
ENGRYT
NEWECH



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

ANSWER: WHAT THE TYCOON CONSIDERED HIS WINNING POINT —
ANSWERS: QUAL WEIGH CENTRY WHENCE

Words of Wisdom

When you lose patience, you lose possession of your soul.

Popularity has many pitfalls but no real benefit.

If you don't want your secrets told, do not tell them to even one other person.

Success is more a matter of perseverance than genius.

The secret of great wit is saying much by saying little.

Acts of kindness may not receive a lot of attention at the time, but they are never forgotten.

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8th European Film Festival

● The member states of the European Union and the Delegation of the European Commission are organising the 8th European Film Festival. It will be held under the patronage of HRH Princess Sarvath.

The films will be screened between 19th and 29th May. Each film will be shown twice, with the first screening taking place at 8 pm, and the second taking place the following day at 5 pm. Italy will open the festival with *Caro Diario*. Following this comes *Ciske the Rat* from the Netherlands, *Shadowlands* from the United Kingdom, *Das Versprechen* from Germany, *Un Indien dans la Ville* from France, *Nionde Kompaniet* from Sweden and *Anchoress* from Belgium, Spain and Greece will introduce *Despues del Sueño*, and *Jaguar* respectively. The Festival will close with a Documentary entitled *Les Enfants de Lumiere*.

The screenings will take place at the Prince Hassan Auditorium in the University of Jordan. Prices are JD 1 with a reduced price for students at 500 fils.

The Young Women's Muslim Association will benefit from all the proceeds.

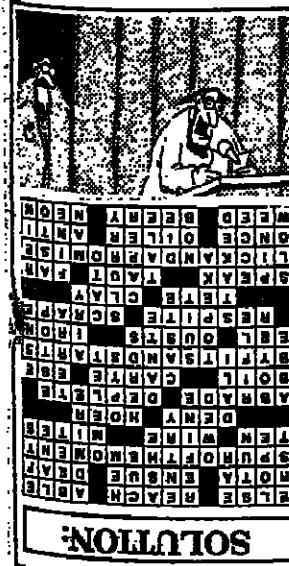
PROGRAMME

1. Caro Diario (Italy)	Sunday 19 May 8:00 pm
	Monday 20 May 5:00 pm
2. Ciske the Rat (Netherlands)	Monday 20 May 8:00 pm
	Tuesday 21 May 5:00 pm
3. Shadowlands (UK)	Tuesday 21 May 8:00 pm
	Wednesday 22 May 5:00 pm
4. Das Versprechen (Germany)	Wednesday 22 May 8:00 pm
	Thursday 23 May 5:00 pm
5. Un Indien dans la Ville (France)	Thursday 23 May 8:00 pm
	Friday 24 May 5:00 pm
6. Nionde Kompaniet (Sweden)	Friday 24 May 8:00 pm
	Sunday 26 May 5:00 pm
7. Anchoress (Belgium)	Sunday 26 May 8:00 pm
	Monday 27 May 5:00 pm
8. Despues del Sueño (Spain)	Monday 27 May 8:00 pm
	Tuesday 28 May 5:00 pm
9. Jaguar (Greece)	Tuesday 28 May 8:00 pm
	Wednesday 29 May 5:00 pm
10. Les Enfants de Lumiere (Documentary)	Wednesday 29 May 8:00 pm

Entrance Ticket is priced at JD 1 for adults and 500 fils for students. All proceeds will go to the Centre for Special Education of the YMCA

The Star

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HAPPY FAMILIES ARE ALL ALIKE; EVERY UNHAPPY FAMILY IS UNHAPPY IN ITS OWN WAY.

ANSWERS: QUAL WEIGH CENTRY WHENCE

Activities

Royal Cultural Centre	661026/7	Concord Cinema	677420
American Centre Library	820101	Plaza Cinema	69238
British Council	636147/8	Philadelphia Cinema	634144
French Cultural Centre	637009		
Goethe Institute	641993		
Cervantes Institute (Spanish)	610858		
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777		
Haya Arts Centre	665195		
Y.W.C.A.	641793		
Y.W.M.A.	664251		
Darat al Funun	643252		
Alia Art Gallery	639303		
Balada Art Gallery	657132		
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	675571		
Nabil & Hisham's Theatre	625155		

Sports Clubs

Al Hussein Sports City	667181/5
Orthodox Club	810491
Royal Automobile Club	815410
Royal Shooting Club	736572
Royal Chess Club	873713
Royal Racing Club	09-801233
Jordan Bridge Club	676990
Amman Mun. Library	636111
Univ. of Jordan Library	843555
R.S.C.N.	837931/837937

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Amman Greater Municipality	636111	Municipalities & Environment	641393
Agriculture	686151	Parliamentary Affairs	641211
Awqaf & Islamic Affairs	666141	Planning	644466
Culture / Jabal Amman	636391	Post & Communications	624301
Education & Higher Education	669181	Public Health	665131
Energy & Mineral Resources	815615	Public Works & Housing	668481
Finance	636321	Social Development	673191
Foreign Affairs	644361	Supplies	602121
Industry & Trade	663191	Tourism & Antiquities	641461
Information	641467	Transport	680100
Interior Ministry	663111	Water & Irrigation	604701
Justice	663101	Youth / University	

Diplomatic Corps

Algerian	641271/2
Australian	673246/7
Austrian	644635
Bahraini	664148/9
Brazilian	642183
Belgian	675683
Bulgarian	818151
Canadian	666124
Chilean	823360
Cyprus Honorary Cons	677559
Czech	671813/666135
Danish Consulate Gen	603703
Finnish Consulate	824654/824676
French	641273/4
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Greek	671331/2
Hungarian	815614
Icelandic Consulate	698851
Indian	637262
Indonesian	828911
Iraqi	639331
Italian	638185
Japanese	672486/7
Kuwait	675135/8
Libyan	693101/3
Lebanese	641381
Moroccan	641451
Netherlands	619699 / 619693
New Zealand Consulate	636720
North Korean	666349
Norwegian Embassy	644932/4
Omani	666155
Pakistani	622787
Palestine	677517
People's Rep. of China	666139
Philippines	645161
Polish	637153
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Russian	641158
Saudi Arabian	814546
Slovenia Honorary Cons	861542
Sri Lanka, Consulate	645312
South African	660745/6
South Korea	811194
Spanish	614166/9
Sudanese	644251/2
Swedish	669177/9
Swiss	686416/7
Syrian	641076
Taiwan	671530
Tunisian	674307/8
Turkish	641251
U.A.E.	643347/643341
United Kingdom	823100
United States	820101
Yemen	642381
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ICRC	688645
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UNICEF	628571
UNESCO	606559

Airlines

Adria Airways	667029
Aeroflot	641510
Aeromexico	694802
Air Canada	630879
Air France	666055/667824
Air India	688301/2
Air Lanka	682140
Alitalia	625203
Alyemda (Air yemen)	653691
American Airlines	669068
Arab Wings	894484
Austrian Airlines	693845/694604
Balkan Airlines	665909
British Midland	694802
British Airways	828801
Cathay Pacific	628596
China Airlines	636232
Cyprus Airways	667028
Delta Air Lines	643661
Egypt Air	630011
Emirates Airlines	643341
Gulf Air	653613
Hungarian Airlines	622275
Iberia	637827/644036
Iran Air	622826
Japan Air Lines	630879
KLM	622175
Korean Airlines	676624/662236
Libyan Arab Airlines	643831/2
Lufthansa	601744
Malaysian Airline	639575/635446
MEA	636104
Olympic	630125/638433
Philippine Airlines	640200
PIA	625981
Polish Airlines	625981
Qantas	678321
Royal Jordanian	639333
Scandinavian Airlines	604499
Singapore Airlines	676177
Sudan Airlines	694501
Swiss Air (G.S.A.)	639791/641906
Syrian Air	622147
United Airlines	641959
USAir	694801/2
TAROM - Romanian	637380
Thai Airways	637195
Trans World Airline	623430
Turkish Airlines	659102
Yemenia Airways	628175
Queen Alia Airport	(08) 53200
RJ Flight Info	(08) 53200

Important Numbers

Emergencies

Police	192/621111
Civil Defence H.Q.	193/198/199
Fire Brigade	622090/93
Ambulance	199
Blood Bank	775121
Traffic Police	625943/639703
Traffic Accidents	897467/8
Highway Police	787111

Hospitals

Akleh Maternity	642441/2
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Al-Bashir, Ashrafieh	775111/26
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
Amal Hospital	674155
Army, Marka	891611/15
Hussein Medical Centre	813813
Italian-Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Khaled Maternity	642361/6
Malhas, J. Amman	636141
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Queen Alia Hospital	602340/50
Shmeisani Hospital	607431
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
University Hospital	845845

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THE STAR'S

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

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Everyone is talking about the Internet and on-line services. The Workstation page is tuning into the forum for these topics. Fax us on 648298 or email us at Star@NETS.com.Jo with your views. We and our readers want to know them.

Epson's introduces high technology to the region: Narrowing the gap

EPSON, ONE of the world's leading printer makers, whose products have been available in the Middle East for many years, has focused more attention on providing marketing and support to users in the region, in recent years.

Epson's Regional Sales Manager, Mr. Jonathan Becker, spoke to *THE STAR* Middle East, the non-Arab magazine, about his company's policy of commitment to the Middle East market and his expectations for the future.

Regarding Epson's marketing and promotion policies in the Middle East, Mr. Becker stated that Epson works through a dual track strategy by which advertising campaigns in Middle Eastern and Pan Arab media are launched from the United Kingdom, while also providing local marketing to cover national publications and participation in exhibitions and events.

As to Epson's latest products available in Middle Eastern markets, Mr. Becker said that many models of ink jet printers have been successfully introduced in different markets of the region, with plans to continue pushing this line of Epson products.

Epson Laser printers are receiving much more attention, due to the introduction of well-featured lasers recently. Multi-media is another direction being considered seriously as Epson is launching a multimedia overhead projector in the Middle East within the coming months.

Commenting on the technologies utilized by Epson, Mr. Becker said that Epson has achieved massive success with its color laser printer that uses 'permanent print head' technology.

This has enabled Epson to

lower the normal costs of such printing technology, even provide higher quality reaching 720 dots per inch (dpi). "Our color laser printer still leads the market," said Mr. Becker.

Also, Epson was first to introduce jet laser technology, two years ago, with its Stylus Color 720 ink jet printer. "We think

computer scanners, which lead the market in the United Kingdom. The company would like to replicate this success in the Middle East. Epson scanners offer several levels of dot accuracy, from 1200 to 1400 dots per inch (dpi). Apparently, there is much interest in the region for such scanners, especially in the publishing, advertising and pre-production fields.

In a market with tough competition from the likes of Hewlett-Packard (HP), Epson believes that the opportunity is still there for easy-to-use, fully featured scanners. Adding to that Epson's plans for intensive training courses for a group of its products, Epson thinks that it can narrow the technical differences between the Middle East, on the one hand, and Europe and the USA on the other.

"We aim to make the scanner the third unit sitting on every desk after the personal computer and the printer, all over the world," said Mr. Becker.

Multi-functional scanning devices are already available from Epson, such as the GT 300 which can provide faxing, e-mailing, optical character recognition and scanning. The software packaged with the GT 300 provides storage facilities for processed data.

Answering a question regarding Epson's customer support services in the Middle East, Mr. Becker stated that this was central to Epson strategy in the region, as it is absolutely guaranteed that Epson customers will find all the spare parts, accessories and consumables required.

"Our Dubai branch is particularly successful in providing

such comprehensive services, and we will continue to provide similar high-level services at our Saudi Arabian branch."

Mr. Becker concluded that, in spite of the availability of cheap imitations of Epson extra parts and accessories on the market, it is always better for user to stick to Epson original parts, as these will guarantee superior performance and quality.

"BYTE Middle East

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Microsoft's efforts to give the Internet a 'friendlier' face

More than 100 companies join with Microsoft and Intel

Microsoft and Intel, with endorsement from more than 100 leading companies, have announced an open platform that will build on industry standards to make video, voice and data communications over the Internet as commonplace as a simple telephone call.

Customers can soon expect to communicate over the Internet in new and exciting ways, regardless of their computer platforms.

Business users will, for example, be able to make video, voice and data conference calls, collaborate and share their applications with others on the Internet.

Students will be able to attend classes, see live video of their instructors, and view classroom materials over the Internet. Grandparents will be able to see, talk to and play games with their grandchildren through Internet video telephones. The new implementation, which is jointly being

developed by Microsoft and Intel, is scheduled to be delivered later this year.

New technologies make it easier to create personal Web sites

Microsoft has also announced technologies that make it easy to create personal Web sites, share files over the Internet and intranets, and publish Web pages to any standard Web site. The peer Web service extends Microsoft Windows 95 and Windows NT Workstation operating systems with personal Web capabilities.

Microsoft Access will support Internet Controls Pack

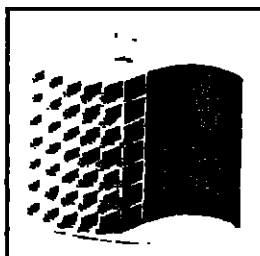
Microsoft has announced that the Access data base for the Windows 95 operating system will support the Microsoft Internet Control Pack (ICP), a package of six OLE controls

that enable developers to add Internet functionality to custom applications and solutions with the use of standardized, reusable 32-bit components.

Using controls from ICP, a developer can add a browser-like functionality to a Microsoft Access-based solution with database information and Web information coexisting on a Microsoft Access-based form.

Applications that store words for Web sites, comments and a history of sites visited can be created easily with controls.

Live data such as financial information, traffic data, and other real-time information, can be added to an Access-based solution for instantaneous data gathering, storage, reporting and analysis. These capabilities meet the rapidly growing demands of developers and power users for tools that integrate business solutions with the Internet. ■



News update

Saudi Arabians await Internet anxiously

It's hard to imagine that Internet services are still not available in Saudi Arabia, but there are reasons for lateness in introducing the service.

First, the modern telecommunications infrastructure of the country, currently being installed by AT&T, is still not done.

The other reason is fears from the cultural invasion that an absolutely open information system like the Internet could cause. Apparently, Saudi officials are worried about the 'immoral aspects' of the Internet such as pornographic content and obscenities.

However, there are bulletin board services (BBS's) in the country and they seem to offer half-solutions to shift email from and to the Internet, in the aim of serving local users.

However, once the telecommunication projects are in place, it is expected that Saudi Arabia will join the Internet, while trying to implement a number of solutions to battle offensive content that is not in line with Arab and Islamic tradition.

Processors running at 500MHz, by 1997

An American company, based in Silicon Valley, announced that it was developing a PowerPC processor which is expected to exceed 500MHz in speed. That happens to be three times the speed of current Pentium processors from Intel!

Exceptional Technologies, the name of the upstart company behind this possible breakthrough, includes an experienced team of scientists and engineers who used to work for giants like Apple, Intel, Chips & Technologies, MIPS, Motorola and others.

So, with a powerful team like

that, they should be able to produce processors that run at blistering speeds.

The first of their processors, the 500MHz PowerPC chip, should start production in the beginning of 1997. This processor will be compatible with the PowerPC 604, and is aimed at high performance desktop computers and servers.

Nokia phone with email capabilities

Nokia, the Finnish maker of cellular telephones and accessories, plans to launch a unique cellular telephone soon that enables users to send and receive email.

The unit will probably include a CPU and a modem-like chipset. The prospect of checking your email using your cellular phone could revolutionize the concept of information exchange as we know it.

As of yet, not enough information is available to us regarding this hot new product, except that it will cost an estimated \$2,000. Start saving up, to enjoy the best of two worlds: Cellular communications and electronic massaging.

INTERFACE

BY ZEID NASSER

Jordan's on-line community takes center stage, again

IT SEEMS that the topic of on-line services in Jordan continues to be hot material for international magazines.

Following the article published about NETS in *Newsweek* last month, *BusinessWeek*, the international weekly, have published a full-page article about Jordan's on-line community.

This feature, however, provides a wider look at on-line services available in the country, without the kind of sensationalism of the *Newsweek* article (see *The Star*, Interface, April 25, 1996).

BusinessWeek's correspondent in Amman, Kirk Albrecht, states that "Jordan is leading the Arab World in creative uses of electronic media. While Egypt, Bahrain, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates all have Internet access, the various governments control the service because of worries about free flow of information."

There is a lengthy mention of the activities on NETS, by which users can directly interact with the Minister of Information, Dr. Marwan Muasher, and even the Prime Minister's Office; both of whom are available to answer questions and inquiries from users on the service regarding all sorts of political and social issues.

As the writer says, Jordanian officials are shrewd enough to realize that the electronic revolution is here to stay and that they are better off trying to use it than resist it.

Also, the article provides publicity for other local companies like Arabia On-Line, for which a shot of the opening screen is published, and Global One/Sprint Jordan, the Internet on-line service provider.

Once again, we can say that all this publicity Jordan is receiving in the international press can provide some very positive results, in terms of creating an awareness among readers all over the world that an on-line literate community exists in the country.

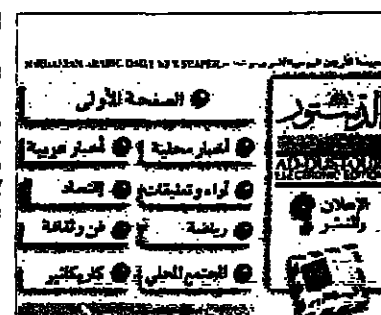
To check out the *BusinessWeek* article, look for the issue dated 20 May, 1996, which is still on the market this week. ■

Morning coffee and your Jordanian daily, in the USA!

STILL ON the subject of the Internet, the electronic edition of the Jordanian Arabic-language daily, *Ad Dustour*, seems to be appearing very well.

Apparently, there are tens of thousands of people abroad who read *Ad Dustour* every morning, and who send in email commenting on many issues.

Arabia On-Line, the company responsible for setting up and maintaining *Ad Dustour's* site on the Internet, says that some 320,000 users have visited *Ad Dustour's* pages on the WorldWide Web. One of the funnier things is how Jordanian students in the US and Canada are using *Ad Dustour's* site at Arabia On-Line to send messages to their family and friends! If you would like to see what the electronic edition of *Ad Dustour* looks like, check it out at address www.arabia.com. ■



Rodman's offensive exploits help Bulls nip Knicks

By Mark Heiser
LA Times - Washington Post
News Service

NEW YORK — He plays basketball, too?

With Michael Jordan dragging and Scottie Pippen, off his game, Coach Phil Jackson searched through his Unmetropolitans for offensive help, only to see the unlikely of them all step up.

Live from New York, it was Dennis Rodman!

For once, notoriety had nothing to do with books, cross-dressing or Madonna. Rodman took 19 rebounds Sunday, held Anthony Mason to one point and made two late drives to the basket, himself, hitting Bill Wennington for the baskets that helped the Bulls come from three points down in the last 1:28 to beat the Knicks, 94-91.

Still looking less than awesome, the Bulls have had to rally in the fourth quarter for all their wins in this series but lead, 3-1, with Game 5 Tuesday in Chicago.

"They figured I'm too much of a chicken... to take the shot," said Rodman with characteristic decorum, "that I'm too much of a lazy... to play offense."

"Every once in a while, I surprise you."

Just what the Knicks needed, a surprise. Rodman played 52 minutes in Saturday's overtime loss, then rested by appearing on "Saturday Night Live," in which he reprised his famous head-butting scene, then reportedly joined the cast at a party in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Nevertheless, he looked like his old, manic self Sunday evening, even if no one else did. Jordan followed his magical 46-point effort Saturday with a modest 27-pointer, missing 16 of 23 shots. Pippen shot his usual percentage, going three for 11 and hurting his back in the process, although he stayed in the game.

Somehow they managed to lead the Knicks, no free-wheeling scorers themselves, 86-76 in the fourth quarter—whereupon the Bulls went almost six minutes without scoring.

Handed a reprieve, the

Knicks went on a 13-0 run to grab the lead.

Patrick Ewing's running 11-footer with 1:41 left, giving them an 89-86 lead. At that point, Jordan had missed all six of his shots in the fourth quarter.

Pippen had missed all five in the second half and it was looking like a tie series and a long week's work.

Then a funny thing happened.

Finding no one in front of him, Rodman drove the lane and when Ewing came up, hit Wennington for a dunk, the Bulls' first basket in 5:57.

Moments later, the defense parted again, wide enough to ride through on his motorcycle.

Rodman drove a second time and hit Wennington, who turned and made a 12-footer with 37 seconds left, putting the Bulls ahead to stay.

"We knew they wouldn't take him seriously as an offensive player," said Jackson, consenting to take questions again, either because the press was acting more responsibly or because his team had won.

"We just said, take it to the hoop and see what you can get."

Actually, Jackson didn't impose a total media embargo. He did an interview with NBC's Marv Albert that was shown before Sunday's game—either because Marv was acting responsibly or because Phil had a message he wanted to impart—in which he again announced

he'd be interested in the Knicks' job if it were vacant.

Jackson is on the last year of his contract with the Bulls and negotiations for a new one have stalled. But he's as likely to come to New York as he is to end up running on Bob Dole's ticket. Jackson has no intention of being at the mercy of the New York tabloids and after years of bitter rivalry, during which he has campaigned for edges through the newspapers, Knick officials bristle at the mention of his name.

The current Knick coach, Jeff

Van Gundy, makes little secret of his distaste but he has an old, fading team, down 3-1, headed for Chicago—where it has lost 11 playoff games in a row—and isn't in good position to zing Jackson or anyone.

"Again, our guys believe," said Van Gundy, a lonely, piping voice in a sea of skepticism. "Whether anyone else does, that's for everyone to decide that one. But we've never had a problem with belief."

They have that going for them, then, if little else. ■



Jordan Rally kicks off today, Thursday

AMMAN (Star)—CAR RACING enthusiasts will be pleased to hear that the Jordan International rally will start today, Thursday. Kick off time is 12 pm from the King Abdallah Gardens in Shmeisani.

The two-day event will finish Friday at 6:45 pm at the Forte Grand Hotel.

The rally which is under the patronage of HRH Prince Faisal, who is also the chairman of the Motor Sports Committee, is organized by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) and the Forte Grand Hotel.

This is a desert rally. Competitors will head south to the rose-red city of Petra and back. Race drivers will cover as much as 860 Kilometers including 325 Kilometers of 14 special stages.

Ladies will not participate in this rally as expected since the two British female drivers sold their Peugeot car to Ibrahim Al Ali.

Out of a total of